

# REDD + ANNUAL COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORTING

COUNTRY: GHANA

PERIOD: AUGUST 2014 - JULY 2015

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> each year.

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## 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 first phase of Ghana's REDD+ Readiness was successfully completed in November, 2014 and resulted in the following outputs:

- Benefit Sharing Mechanism;
- Dispute Resolution Mechanism;
- Monitoring and Evaluation framework;
- Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) (and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)/ Resettlement Policy Framework);
- Reference Emission Level and Measurement, Reporting and Verification System for Ghana;
- Operational Guidance and Standards for National and Sub-national REDD+ Programmes;
- REDD+ Communication Strategy; and
- REDD+ Strategy

Ghana has also received Additional Funding from the FCPF for continuation and

consequent completion of REDD+ readiness activities to enable the country to fully develop all the frameworks, systems and structures necessary for engagement in an international REDD+ mechanism.

Additionally, Ghana has been selected into the pipeline of the FCPF Carbon Fund following approval of its Emissions Reduction Programme Idea Note (ER-PIN). The vision of the 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 program area. Ghana intends to submit its Emission Reductions Programme Document (ERPD) to the Carbon Fund by the first quarter of 2016.

Ghana has therefore reached a stage where there is considerable overlap of all the three stages envisaged in the logical progression for REDD+ i.e. readiness, piloting and full implementation. Whilst readiness activities and development of the ERPD are ongoing, Ghana has also received funding for implementation of the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) with the aim of piloting REDD+ activities in two administrative regions which falls within the ER programme area.

During the last quarter of 2014, the NRS launched and successfully completed the maiden edition of the national REDD+ roadshow which galvanized public support and enthusiasm for REDD+ and other sustainable forest management interventions in Ghana. A gender sub-working group has also been established to ensure that gender issues are mainstreamed into Ghana's REDD+ process. 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 development of ToRs for the engagement of consulting firms to undertake various tasks that will feed into the development of the ERPD.

Notwithstanding these notable achievements, some challenges and operational difficulties were faced during the reporting period. One of these is managing high and unrealistic expectations amongst some stakeholders of substantial financial inflow to be realized from REDD+ implementation. 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, the outputs of some consultants were below the expectation of the NRS and consequently considerable time and efforts had to be spent to review and revise the outputs. Other challenges faced during the reporting period were lack of adequate office space for the NRS as well as meeting the increasing demands associated with coordinating the overlapping stages of Ghana's REDD+ process i.e. pursuing readiness in parallel with developing performance based programmes.

Despite these challenges, Ghana's REDD+ process is firmly on track and continues to attract international support and interest. This is evidenced by the availability of different funding streams for key REDD+ initiatives - i.e. the FCPF Readiness, FIP and

support for the ERP. With the available financial resources, Ghana can therefore take the necessary steps towards the attainment of the goals and objectives of REDD+ and thereby contribute to national development as well as global efforts aimed at mitigating climate change.

## **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&amp;E Framework Indicator I.2.B.i.</i> ):  |  |
|---|--|
| <u>Source:</u> Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for stakeholder consultations  | <u>Amount provided:</u> US\$ 22,000.00     |
| <u>Source:</u> Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO) support for analytical studies on REDD+ piloting in Ghana under the Reducing Deforestation and forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests (REDDES) project | <u>Amount provided:</u> US\$ 400,000.00    |
| 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&amp;E Framework Indicator I.2.B.i.</i> ):  |  |
| <u>Source:</u> Ghana's Forest Investment Programme  | <u>Amount provided:</u> US\$ 55,330,000.00 |
| <u>Source:</u> Japanese Funded Forest Preservation Programme (FPP) [Technology Transfer and Support for trend analysis of forest land change, Forest resource map, biomass and C-Stock estimation and Capacity building]                                      | <u>Amount provided:</u> US \$ 7,800,000.00 |
| <u>Source:</u> GIZ Supporting Ghana in Forest Monitoring based on German Remote Sensing Technology.   | <u>Amount provided:</u> € 500,000.00       |
| <u>Source:</u> Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for Biomass map  | <u>Amount provided:</u> US \$ 126,063.00   |
| <u>Source:</u> UN-REDD programme (to promote synergy between the REDD+ and VPA/ FLEGT in Ghana)   | <u>Amount provided:</u> US \$ 40,000.00    |
| <u>Source:</u> IUCN Global Gender Office (for setting up the Gender sub-working group).   | <u>Amount provided:</u> US \$ 15,000.00    |

**Describe how stakeholders are participating and engaging in REDD+ decision making processes (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.3.A):**

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

The National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) and CSOs have partnered closely to advance REDD+ in Ghana. CSOs are effectively engaged and have actively participated in key activities undertaken by the NRS. During the consultative meetings that informed the finalization of consultancy outputs to provide the requisite overarching framework for Ghana's REDD+ process, several CSOs were effectively engaged and provided rich feedback and inputs to strengthen the various outputs. A key process that benefited from the support of CSOs was the development of the REDD+ safeguard instruments which included a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)/ Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). Three consultative regional workshops were undertaken to inform the finalization of these frameworks and the workshops were well-attended by CSOs in Ghana. In addition, the consultative processes that led to the development of the REDD+ dispute resolution and benefit sharing mechanism involved the active participation of civil society groups including IUCN, Tropenbos International, Civic Response, Rainforest Alliance, Abantu for Development and the National Forest Forum.

Civil society groups are also 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, Conservation Alliance and NCRC-Ghana are involved in analytical work and stakeholder consultations/ training on climate smart cocoa production systems whereas IUCN has been implementing a forest landscape restoration project. These initiatives have significant linkages and can offer useful lessons for the evolving Emission Reductions Programme.

Although the term 'indigenous people' is not applicable in its strictest sense in Ghanaian demographics, key issues such as the effective engagement and full recognition of rights of IPs are equally relevant for forest fringe (or local) communities and well-recognized in Ghana. To ensure that these issues are well-addressed in Ghana's REDD+ process, the NRS has effectively engaged local communities in all readiness activities.

**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.):**

**Frequency:**

Biennial  
Quarterly  
Monthly  
Quarterly  
Quarterly  
Annually  
Monthly

- 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.**

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 sensitisation programme on Ghana's REDD+ process through the maiden REDD+ roadshow (outreach activities embarked on included durbars, film shows, 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. National Policy Framework for tree tenure
2. National Spatial Development Framework

**Completed: N/ A**

**Please describe these policy reforms:**

The national policy framework on tree tenure seeks to provide clarity on rights associated with tree resources to guide the development of equitable benefit sharing schemes for forest management initiatives including REDD+.

The 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.

**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.**

Ghana's REDD+ strategy in its current form outlines three intervention areas for REDD+ implementation in Ghana, these include:

1. Improving Land Use and socio-economic development in the High Forest Zone and Cocoa growing areas (cocoa-forest ER programme);
2. Addressing wood harvesting and unsustainable agricultural practices in the transition and savannah zones;
3. Policy and legislative reforms to support REDD+ and sustainable forestry

A distinctive feature of the Strategic 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.

### 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's Readiness Package:

A key achievement during the reporting period was the receipt of the final outputs from consultants commissioned during the first phase of the FCPF Readiness project. Prior to this, a series of consultative and validation workshops were undertaken to seek stakeholder's feedback and endorsement of the reports. In addition, a landmark activity completed during the reporting period was the successful completion of the first National REDD+ Roadshow which galvanised public support and commitment to REDD+ and other sustainable forest management interventions. Table 1 below outlines the progress made per each component of the FCPF's Readiness Assessment Framework during the reporting period.

**Table 1: Progress made during the reporting period**

| COMPONENT                               | SUB-COMPONENT  | PROGRESS  |
|---|--|---|
| Readiness Organisation and Consultation | 1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements   | Setting up of REDD+ Gender sub-working group to ensure that gender issues are integrated in Ghana's REDD+ process.  |
|   | 1b. Consultation, Participation and Outreach   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training of Ghana's REDD+ pilot proponents and staff of the Climate Change Unit on VCS for Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ projects. The training was held in August, 2014;</li> <li>2. Successful completion of first national REDD+ Roadshow at four strategic stops nationwide: Damango in the Northern Region, Dormaa Ahenkro in the Brong-Ahafo region; Tarkwa in the Western region and Hohoe in the Volta region.</li> </ol>   |
| REDD+ Strategy Preparation              | 2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development and implementation of a Wood Tracking System under the VPA/ FLEGT process;</li> <li>2. Land use assessment in the Savannah zone;</li> <li>3. Completion of work to track all REDD+ expenditures, commitments and projects in Ghana from 2009 to 2013 under the REDDX initiative in partnership with Forest Trends International and NCRC;</li> <li>4. Publication of Research findings of REDDES project to provide a firm foundation for inclusion of off-reserve sites in REDD+ implementation;</li> <li>5. Provision of input from the National REDD+ Secretariat towards the finalisation of the National Climate Change Policy Master Plan;</li> </ol> |
|   | 2b. REDD+ Strategy Options   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Final Letter of Intent (LOI) developed for Ghana's Emissions Reduction Programme;</li> <li>2. Final REDD+ Strategy consultancy report submitted;</li> </ol>   |




|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  |  | 3. Consultative meetings for review and updating of REDD+ Strategy has commenced and will be completed by November, 2015;<br>4. Draft TORs developed for all ER-PD consultancies.   |
|  | 2c. Implementation Framework   | 1. Final consultancy reports on FGRM; Operational Guidance and Standards for national and subnational REDD+ Programs and Benefit Sharing Options submitted;<br>2. Investiture of the Joint Coordinating Committee and Drafting Team for the development of Ghana's ER-PD.<br>3. Review of tree tenure under NREG-Technical Assistance (TA)  |
|  | 2d. Social and Environmental Impacts   | 1. Three Regional Workshops organised to seek views on Stakeholders on Ghana's SESA/ ESMF framework;<br>2. Final Consultancy report on SESA/ ESMF/ RPF submitted.   |
| Reference Emission Level (REL)/ Reference Level (RL) | REL/ RL  | 1. Final Consultancy Report on the design of Ghana's REDD+ MRV/ REL submitted;<br>2. Estimation of Reference Level for Selective Logging in Ghana's High Forest Zone by Winrock International;<br>3. Capacity building for selected staff of Forestry Commission and EPA on tropical forest monitoring and estimating carbon emissions for REDD+;<br>4. TOR developed for the establishment of a Forest Reference Emission Level and operationalisation of an MRV system. |
| Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards        | 4a. National Forest Monitoring System  | Support received from FAO to strengthen GIS capacity in the Forestry Commission.  |
|  | 4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance and Safeguards | Draft TOR has been developed for consultancy services to establish a Safeguards Information System.   |

| 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 | No (Funding received for this sub-component under the AF phase) |

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.):

| <u>Planned Milestones:</u>  | <u>Level of Achievement<sup>1</sup>:</u>  | <u>Tracking<sup>2</sup>:</u>  |
|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support to the Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-Stakeholder Consultations;</li> <li>2. Design of a National REDD+ Strategy;</li> <li>3. Design of a National Reference Level and MRV System; and</li> <li>4. Development of an Emission Reduction Programme Document for submission to the Carbon Fund.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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;</li> <li>2. Final REDD+ Strategy consultancy report has been submitted. This report is currently being reviewed through expert discussions and stakeholder consultations;</li> <li>3. Initial National and ecozone-specific Reference Emission Level (REL) for deforestation have been developed, subject to review. In addition, through the partnership of the National REDD+ Secretariat with IUCN International and Winrock, an REL for Selective Logging for the ER Programme Accounting Area (Ghana's High Forest Zone) has been developed. Further work will be undertaken during the Additional Funding Phase of Ghana's REDD+ Readiness to fill identified gaps in relation to Carbon Stocks Enhancement, other elements of degradation (fire, illegal logging etc.). This additional work will be based on the Standard Operating Procedures developed during the first phase of REDD+ Readiness.</li> <li>4. The Joint Coordinating Committee and Drafting Team for the development of the ER-PD have been set-up. In addition, ToRs have been developed for consultancies that will provide the key inputs for the completion of the ER-PD.</li> </ol> | <div>  <span>Significant progress</span> </div> <p><i>Please explain why:</i> All key deliverables of Ghana's first phase of REDD+ Readiness were successfully completed and activities for the development of an Emissions Reduction Programme document have commenced and are expected to be completed on time.</p> |

<sup>1</sup> 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+

<sup>2</sup> 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


**Degree of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component and sub-component (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.c.).**  
**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 15<sup>th</sup> each year**



|  | Sub-component | Progress against annual targets |              | Tracking <sup>3</sup><br>(Please select your light rating) |
|--|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--|
|  |               | Planned milestones              | Achievements |  |



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<sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>3</sup><br>(Please select your light rating)  |
|--|---|---|--|---|
|  |   | Planned milestones  | Achievements   |   |
| R-PP Component 1 – Readiness Organization and Consultation | <b>Sub-Component 1a</b> – National REDD+ Management Arrangements<br><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><br><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.<br><br>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;<br><br>3. Design of a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) for Ghana's REDD+ Process; and<br><br>4. Commissioning of consultancy services for the development of arrangements for channelling and management of REDD+ funds. | 1a. Continual capacity building for staff of the NRS.1b. Functional Project Oversight Committee at the Forestry Commission to ensure effective implementation.<br>1c. Effective coordination of the REDD+ Readiness process by the NRS and disbursement rate of 94% of Original grant achieved.<br><br>2a. Regular meetings of sub-working groups for finalisation of key activities under the Original Grant.2b. Setting up of Gender sub-working group in March, 2015 to ensure that gender considerations are integrated in Ghana's REDD+ implementation.<br>2c. Consultative meetings with REDD+ sub-working groups for the development of TORs for consultancy services for the ERPD development.<br>2d. The Original Grant has been fully audited and closed<br><br>3. A Dispute Resolution Mechanism has been designed for Ghana's REDD+ Readiness process.<br><br>4. Draft TOR developed for the task. | <div>  <span>Significant progress</span> </div> <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 during the finalisation of consultancy reports for the first phase of REDD+ readiness. In addition, the NRS is effectively undertaking its role of coordinating Ghana's REDD+ readiness process and development of an Emissions Reduction Programme.</p> |
|  | FCPF M&E Framework  | 24 Feb 2015   | 13   |   |


|  | Sub-component  | Progress against annual targets   |   | Tracking <sup>3</sup><br>(Please select your light rating)   |
|--|--|---|---|--|
|  |  | Planned milestones  | Achievements  |  |
|  | <p><b>Sub-Component 1b</b> – 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> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Broad information sharing to stakeholders on Ghana's REDD+ readiness process.</li> <li>2. Expert and focused consultations on key thematic areas of REDD+;</li> <li>3. Stakeholder consultations on proposed legal/ institutional changes to support REDD+ implementation in Ghana;</li> <li>4. Validation of National REDD+ Strategy.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The first REDD+ Roadshow in Ghana was successfully undertaken in four administrative regions in Ghana in October, 2014 to galvanise public support and enthusiasm for REDD+ and also to share information on Ghana's REDD+ Readiness process with the general public.</li> <li>2. Expert and focused consultations have consistently been utilised 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. Currently, Ghana's REDD+ Strategy is being reviewed by experts drawn from the National REDD+ working group and other local stakeholder institutions.</li> <li>3. Stakeholder consultations were utilised as a basis for the definition of the institutional structures proposed for the operationalisation of key thematic areas of REDD+ including SESA, Benefit Sharing, Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism, and MRV during the first phase of REDD+ readiness.</li> <li>4 A final expert review to inform the validation of Ghana's REDD+ Strategy is underway.</li> </ol> | <div>  <span>Significant progress</span> </div> <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> |


|   | Sub-component   | Progress against annual targets   |   | Tracking <sup>3</sup><br>(Please select your light rating)   |
|---|---|---|---|--|
|   |   | Planned milestones  | Achievements  |  |
| R-PP Component 2 – REDD+ Strategy Preparation | <b>Subcomponent 2a:</b> Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance<br><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><br><i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (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</i> | 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. | Analytical work on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation was undertaken and presented in the final consultancy report of Indufor Oy i.e. 'the development of REL and MRV System in Ghana'.  | <div>  <span>Significant progress</span> </div> <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.</p> |
|   | <b>Subcomponent 2b:</b> REDD+ Strategy Options<br><i>Purpose: Develop a set of policies and programs for addressing the drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation</i><br><i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options; (ii) feasibility assessment; (iii) implications for strategy options on existing sectoral policies.</i>   | To develop an integrated strategy which shall provide the roadmap to guide the implementation of REDD+ in Ghana   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Final REDD+ Strategy Consultancy report has been submitted by the consultant.</li> <li>2. Further expert review and planned stakeholder consultations for the finalization of Ghana's REDD+ Strategy is underway</li> </ol> | <div>  <span>Progressing well, further development required</span> </div> <p>Please explain why: Process for the finalisation of Ghana's REDD+ strategy is still underway.</p>   |


|  | Sub-component   | Progress against annual targets  |  | Tracking <sup>3</sup><br>(Please select your light rating)  |
|--|---|--|--|---|
|  |   | Planned milestones   | Achievements   |   |
|  | <b>Subcomponent 2c:</b> Implementation Framework<br><i>Purpose: Set out credible and transparent institutional, economic, legal and governance arrangements necessary to implement REDD+ strategy options</i><br><i>Country Self- Assessment 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.  | Final reports of consultancies commissioned to develop the following frameworks were submitted by November, 2014: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- REDD+ Dispute Resolution Mechanism;</li> <li>- Benefit Sharing Mechanism;</li> <li>- Operational Guidance and Standards for national and subnational REDD+ programmes.</li> </ul>                   | <div>            Progressing well, further development required         </div> <p><i>Please explain why:</i> The key analytical work required to provide the enabling environment for the implementation of the REDD+ strategic interventions was completed during the Original preparatory grant phase. However, further work is required to fully operationalise these frameworks.</p> |
|  | <b>Subcomponent 2d:</b> Social and Environmental Impacts<br><i>Purpose: Ensure compliance with the Common Approach and prepare a country specific Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)</i><br><i>Country Self- Assessment 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 Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and ensure that it can be applied to integrate environmental and social considerations into Ghana's REDD+ readiness process in a manner consistent with Ghana's environmental laws and regulations and the World Bank's environmental and social safeguard policies. | Final consultancy reports on the following safeguards related tasks were submitted by SAL consults (the consulting firm): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) Report;</li> <li>- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); and</li> <li>- Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)</li> </ul> | <div>            Significant progress         </div> <p><i>Please explain why:</i> The outputs of the consultancy commissioned for this task were of very high standard and consistent with national and international requirements.</p>  |




|   | Sub-component  | Progress against annual targets  |   | Tracking <sup>3</sup><br>(Please select your light rating)                          |  |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|   |  | Planned milestones   | Achievements  |   |  |
| R-PP Component 3 – Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels | <p><b>R-PP Component 3</b> - 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 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> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>2. Development of a Reference Emission Level for Ghana by November, 2014;</li> <li>3. Assess the uncertainty level of the computed Reference level.</li> </ol> | <p>Staff of the Forestry Commission and other stakeholders have benefited from local and international training on REDD+ REL/ forest monitoring.</p> <p>The consulting firm engaged by the NRS for this task, Indufor Oy, developed an REL based solely on deforestation and provided Standard Operating Procedures for the development of a holistic REL for Ghana. Winrock International also developed a Reference level for selective logging for Ghana's High Forest Zone in 2015. During the Additional Funding Phase of Ghana's REDD+ readiness, further work will be done to fill all identified gaps.</p> <p>Standard Operating Procedures for estimating uncertainty was developed by Indufor Oy.</p> |  | <p>Progressing well, further development required</p> <p>And explain why: Although some level of progress has been made, Ghana is yet to fully develop an REL for REDD+. In addition, the capacity of the Forestry Commission to estimate an REL and operationalise an MRV system requires further strengthening. Under the AF phase, steps are being taken to address the gaps.</p> |

|   | Sub-component  | Progress against annual targets   |   | Tracking <sup>3</sup><br>(Please select your light rating)   |
|---|--|---|---|--|
|   |  | Planned milestones  | Achievements  |  |
| R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards | <p><b>Subcomponent 4a:</b> 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 Criteria: (i) documentation of monitoring approach; (ii) demonstration of early implementation; (iii) institutional arrangements and capacities- Forests</i></p> | Establish an approach for national forest monitoring system by November, 2014 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Institutional arrangement for national forest monitoring developed under the Indufor consultancy</li> <li>2. Guidelines in the form of Standard Operating Procedures developed for setting up a reference level (indicated above) and development of a REDD+ MRV system.</li> <li>3. As part of the 'National Forest Monitoring and Information Systems for a Transparent and Truthful REDD+' Project being implemented by the FAO, ten computers were delivered to the FC through the CCU for the establishment of a Remote Sensing and GIS laboratory at the head office of the Forestry Commission.</li> </ol> | <div>  Progressing well, further development required </div> <p>And explain why: The frameworks and guidelines (i.e. SOPs) for the development of a forest monitoring system were developed during the first phase of REDD+ readiness. However, the SOPs are yet to be field-tested to inform the development of an REL and MRV System. Operationalisation of an MRV system is one of the key activities to be undertaken during the additional funding phase of Ghana's REDD+ readiness.</p> |


|  | Sub-component  | Progress against annual targets   |   | Tracking <sup>3</sup><br>(Please select your light rating)   |
|--|--|---|---|--|
|  |  | Planned milestones  | Achievements  |  |
|  | <p><b>Subcomponent 4b:</b> Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards</p> <p><i>Purpose: Specify the non-carbon aspects prioritized for monitoring by the country</i></p> <p><i>Country Self- Assessment 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></p> | 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. | Draft TORs for the engagement of a consulting firm for this task has been prepared. | <div>  Further development </div> <p>And explain why: This assignment is presently at the 'TOR' preparation and finalisation phase prior to the engagement of a consulting firm for the substantive relevant tasks.</p> |

| 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:<br><br>Planned disbursement of Grant (cumulative) – USD 3.4 million<br>Actual disbursement (total) – USD 3.19 million | 94%  | Please select your rating:<br><div>            Up to 10% variance with plans         </div> |

| 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)<br><br>R-PP budget (total) – <u>USD 7.334 million</u><br>Actual amount received (cumulative) – <u>USD 9.15 million</u> (from FCPF (\$8.6m), SECO (\$0.4m), and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (~\$0.15m)<br>Actual disbursement (cumulative) – <u>USD 4.3 million</u> | 47% (cumulative) | Please select your rating:<br><div>            Up to 10% variance with plans         </div> |

### 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. Ghana's Maiden REDD+ Roadshow   | Ghana's maiden REDD+ roadshow served as an important platform for the engagement of all stakeholders including CSOs and local communities. Specifically, during the roadshow, visits were made to Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) around the Mole National Park in Ghana's Northern region for interactions with the communities on REDD+ and the need for sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources. In addition, CSOs were adequately represented and in some cases served as resource persons at some of the REDD+ Roadshow events such as seminars, public durbars and radio panel discussions. The Roadshow was held in four administrative regions of Ghana (Northern, Brong-Ahafo, Western and Volta regions) in the last quarter of 2014. |
| 2. Development of SESA/ ESMF/ RPF  | Local communities and CSOs were involved in the process of developing SESA/ ESMF/ RPF for Ghana's REDD+ process through their active participation in field-level discussions led by the National REDD+ Secretariat and the commissioned consulting firm for the task, SAL Consult. In addition, the NRS also organised three  |

|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| 3. Consultative workshops for completion of all consultancy assignments   | <p>regional workshops, which had representation from CSOs and local communities, to receive further feedback and comments on Ghana’s draft SESA and to enable stakeholders to carry out an assessment of REDD+ activities using the EPA’s Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) tools.</p> <p>Local communities and CSOs also actively participated in consultative meetings for all consultancies commissioned during the first phase of REDD+ readiness to make inputs that informed the finalisation of the consultancy outputs.</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</u><br><u>(# of days)</u>  | # of participants<br># of men / # of women   |  |
| Technical field training on estimating carbon emissions for REDD+   | 8  | 2 women participants from CSOs               |   |
| Training on Ghana’s REDD+ Strategy and Dispute Resolution Mechanism   | 2  | 3 participants from CSOs: 2 women and 1 man  |   |
| Training on SEA tools   | 6  | 10 participants from CSOs: 3 women and 7 men |   |
| Training on REDD+ and gender  | 2  | 1 woman participant from CSO                 |   |

### 3.3. Knowledge sharing

| Has your country developed and published REDD+ knowledge products with FCPF support: |  |
|--|--|
| Yes/No:<br>Yes   | <u>Please provide the list of published REDD+ knowledge products, if any during reporting period :</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ABC of REDD+</li> <li>2. REDD+ Digest (Quarterly newsletter on REDD+ readiness in Ghana)</li> <li>3. Methodological Documentation for Estimating Emissions from Selective Logging for Ghana.</li> </ol> |

How many people have been reached by these knowledge products, if any:

**Overall number by product:** **5968** (ABC of REDD+); **2000** (REDD+ Digest); and **50** (Methodological documentation).

**# of Men:** **2971** (ABC of REDD+); **1150** (REDD+ Digest); and **40** (Methodological documentation)

**# of Women:** **2997** (ABC of REDD+); **850** (REDD+ Digest); and **10** (Methodological documentation)

Have some experts of your country participated in any South-south learning activities? If yes, how many (men and women)?

| Yes/No: | <u>List the South-South learning activities:</u>  |   |
|---------|---|---|
| Yes     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Country approach to Safeguards workshop in Nairobi, Kenya in June, 2015 organised by UN-REDD</li> <li>2. South-South exchange on Jurisdictional Integrated Landscape Programmes in Maputo in July, 2015.</li> </ol> | <p><b># of men:</b>2 (1 from government sector and 1 from private sector)</p> <p><b># of women:</b> 1 from government sector.</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.

An overarching challenge in Ghana's REDD+ readiness process has been the complexity associated with the implementation of preparatory activities for a mechanism which is still evolving. This means that adjustments would have to be made as and when new decisions and concepts emerge from the international climate change negotiations and other related processes. An issue that exemplifies this challenge is the Safeguards Information System (SIS) for monitoring safeguards and other non-carbon issues. During the development of Ghana's R-PP, the SIS had not been included as one of the FCPF's readiness activities and consequently it was neither planned nor budgeted for implementation in the R-PP. However, by securing Additional Funding of \$5.2 million from the FCPF, Ghana can effectively implement some key readiness activities which considered after the formulation of Ghana's R-PP. These activities include the development of SIS, REDD+ Registry and setting up of REDD+ fund management arrangements.

Other key issues, challenges and risks are discussed below:

##### **1. Challenges with Coordination of the Overlapping Stages of Ghana's REDD+ Process**

Currently, Ghana has reached a stage where there is considerable overlap of all the three stages envisaged in the logical progression for REDD+ i.e. readiness, piloting and full implementation. Ghana has received Additional Funding to complete readiness activities from 2015 to 2017 and is concurrently developing an Emission Reduction Programme document for performance-based REDD+ implementation from 2016. In addition, the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) which seeks to pilot REDD+ activities commenced in 2015 and is envisaged to be undertaken over the next five years. There is therefore a need strengthen coordination to ensure that these initiatives fit well together and this can be challenging. Stronger institutional linkage particularly between the National REDD+ Secretariat which coordinates the FCPF's Readiness project and the Carbon Fund's ERP; and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources which coordinates the Forest Investment Programme needs to be fostered and maintained. A series of meetings are being undertaken between the two teams to identify overlaps between the two initiatives and to synchronise work plans particularly on crosscutting issues such as policy reforms on tree tenure, benefit sharing & CREMAs to avoid duplication of efforts and inefficient use of resources.

## **2. 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.

## **3. 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 places 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 for the NRS. Also the management of the Forestry Commission is making arrangements to beef up the staff strength of the NRS as a matter of urgency.

## **4. Sub-standard Outputs from some Consultants**

The outputs of some of the consultancies under the Original Grant failed to fully meet the expectations of the NRS and other key stakeholders. This constituted a major drawback as extra efforts had to be made by the sub-working groups of the NRWG to review and improve those outputs. To avoid the recurrence of this situation, the NRS is paying greater attention to efforts in drafting clearer and more thorough ToRs for subsequent consultancies.

## **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+.

The key lessons learned during the reporting period are outlined below:

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 emerging ERP reveals that it is



important to identify and 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.