

GHANA'S REDD+ READINESS PROGRESS FACT SHEET

May, 2013

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- REDD Readiness Preparation Idea Note (R-PIN) received FCPF approval in July, 2008
- \$200K FCPF Preparation Grant Agreement for R-PP signed on 1 April, 2009 and disbursed as of November, 2009
- REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) submitted to FCPF in December, 2009
- R-PP assessed and approved by FCPF PC at PC5 in Gabon as per Resolution PC/5/2010/3 of March, 2010 subject to revision
- Revised R-PP submitted to the FCPF in accordance with the PC 5 resolution in December, 2010
- FCPF Readiness Grant preparation - fiduciary arrangements finalized, WB due diligence completed, preparation of R-PP Assessment Note completed in early October, 2011
- FCPF Readiness Grant signed in October, 2011
- The formal launch of the project took place on the 26th of April 2012 in Accra and was attended by a cross-section of stakeholder representatives.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- The Government has established structures related to climate change, including national cross-sectoral committees for climate change, REDD+ etc.
- The apex body at the Cabinet level for providing oversight on national climate change issues including REDD+ initiatives is the Natural Resources Advisory Council (ENRAC). The ENRAC is chaired by H.E. Vice President. The Terms of Reference have been developed and the body launched on 7 May, 2010.
- The NREG Technical Coordination Committee (TCC+) will be responsible for coordinating Ghana's FIP, FCPF (REDD+), VPA, National Forest Forum and Non-Legally Binding Instruments (NLBI).
- The National REDD+ Technical Working Group (NRTWG) which is a multi-stakeholder body within the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources provides advice and guidance on all REDD+ processes.
- The Climate Change Unit of the Forestry Commission serves as the REDD+ secretariat of the National REDD+ Technical Working Group.
- Technical Sub-Working Groups have been established to provide expertise and oversight on specific REDD+ strategy options and REDD+ methodological issues.
- A Carbon Credit Policy Committee has been set up in Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology (MEST) to clearly define rules and procedures for carrying out carbon credit generating activities, allocation of carbon rights and participation in sub-national activities.
- Institutional structures will be supported by legislation to implement the National Climate Change Policy.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- Consultations at national, sub-national and local levels in collaboration with relevant civil society groups who have interest and experience in VPA and REDD+ issues began in earnest in 2008 to formulate Ghana's R-PP.
- Civil society platforms such as Forest Forums at national, regional and local levels which are existing structures for consultation are used for dissemination of REDD+ information to grassroot forest communities and other stakeholders.
- A multi-stakeholder Sub-Working Group on Consultation and Participation under the National REDD+ Technical Working Group is in place to develop a comprehensive Stakeholder Consultation and Participation

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(C&P) Plan.

- A draft Communication Strategy outlining how local institutions and communities should be engaged in the REDD+ process has been circulated for feedback and eventual approval by the NRTWG.
- Existing VPA stakeholder consultation structures with Forest Watch as the hub used for REDD+ consultation and participation process.
- Collaborative mechanisms between VPA and REDD+ set up to enhance effective collaboration of efforts to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
- Further consultation and sensitization workshops organized for Traditional Authorities (16 Chiefs) in Kumasi and forest communities in Ho District (15 communities), Sunyani (5 communities) to enhance their understanding of REDD+ and Ghana's R-PP.
- A national validation workshop was held in October, 2009.
- The Climate Change Unit within the Forestry Commission has developed a REDD+ web page on the organization's website to facilitate information dissemination on REDD+ activities.
- Communication material (REDD+ brochures and posters) have been prepared and circulated to all stakeholders.
- Continuation of climate change sensitization drive for the frontline staff of Forestry Commission continued from January to March, 2013.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- Developing the REDD+ Strategy is through a highly participatory approach which is ongoing, with an extensive program of applied research, as well as research and policy syntheses; commissioned expert reviews; inter-ministerial policy coordination and harmonization; and public consultation.
- A Policy, Legislation and Governance sub-Working Group is in place to facilitate the ongoing policy and legal reforms in the forest, mining, energy and agriculture sectors and to identify gaps and strategies for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation under REDD+.
- 14 candidate strategies have been identified in the R-PP. These will be subjected to social and environmental impact assessment during the consultation process and testing during the REDD+ piloting phase.
- REDD+ Strategy will fall into two broad thematic areas: a) Timber policy and supply b) Wider aspects of forest policy including agro-forestry and other carbon conserving activities.
- Evaluation of submitted REDD+ Pilot project proposals completed. Ground implementation of pilots will take off soon.
- Database developed for REDD+ actors for the purpose of networking and capacity building.
- Seven (7) REDD+ Pilot projects selected for on the ground implementation.
- A consulting firm is being recruited to coordinate national dialogue leading to the formulation of the National REDD+ strategy.

5. Implementation Framework

- A phased approach is proposed up to 2013 and beyond as follows:
 - Phase 1 (2009 – 2011): REDD+ Readiness – Development of national plan or strategy, policies and measures and capacity building are ongoing

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- **Phase 2 (2011 – 2012):** Implementation of REDD+ Strategy - Implementation of national plan, policies and measures and further capacity building, technology development and transfer, and results-based demonstration activities or pilots
- **Phase 3 (2012 – 2013):** Implementation of Performance-based actions - Results-based actions with full measurement, reporting and verification (MRV)

6. SESA

- **ToRs for SESA prepared and included in the R-PP to promote due diligence; to identify institutional arrangements and governance needed for the implementation of REDD+ Readiness strategy; to identify the likely socio-economic and environmental risks associated with REDD strategies/policies; and to outline possible mitigation options; assess the potential additional benefits of REDD+ (especially biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation); and to inform the design of the national REDD+ strategy so that it avoids or mitigates negative social/environmental impacts and encourages positive ones.**
- **ToR for SESA prepared for engaging a consultant to facilitate the development of environmental and social management framework (ESMF) for the REDD+ strategy options.**
- **Expression of Interest (EOI) on five thematic ToRs were advertised in July 2012 to engage prospective consulting firms for these assignment namely; SESA, MRV/REL/, Strategic Options, Benefit Sharing/ Conflict Resolution.**
- **The procurement team are currently reviewing the EOI's for selection.**
- **A consulting firm has been identified for undertaking the assignment and the contract will be signed by end of June**

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- **ToRs for developing Reference Scenario prepared.**
- **Carbon baseline map has been produced as a collaborative effort between Forestry Commission, Katoomba group, Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC) and Oxford University. The ongoing carbon map project was supported by the Betty Moore and Rockefeller Foundations.**
- **Sub-national carbon accounting approach will be pursued as a first step to manage the national carbon accounting and actions related to crediting.**
- **Institutional capacity building and strengthening are being planned with the support of consultants**
- **ToR for MRV and Reference Emission Level (REL) prepared for engaging consultants to facilitate the process.**

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- A consulting firm to undertake the assignment has been identified and contract will be awarded by end of June.

8. MRV

- Assessment of existing monitoring systems for tracking carbon stocks, livelihoods, governance reforms, biodiversity indicators is ongoing.
- The existing National GHG Inventory database of the National Communication program within EPA for estimating the historic emissions will be used for developing the MRV and carbon accounting system. The Remote Sensing & Forest Inventory Unit of the Forestry Commission and the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (CERSGIS) at the University of Ghana will be key collaborators in the design of the MRV and carbon accounting system.
- Discussions by the MRV Sub-Working Group are ongoing on how best to develop an effective MRV system.
- Framework developed for a National REDD+ Registry.
- Coordination of MRV initiatives of FCPF, Forest Preservation Programme (Japan), Forest Monitoring System (GIZ/Germany), National Carbon Mapping (NCRC/Katoomba) is ongoing.

9. Other

- Due to the high level of donor coordination with the natural resources sector in Ghana there is a multi-donor sector budget program (NREG), an effective government-donor-civil society group mechanism to oversee a high number of initiatives in the forest and natural resources sector to ensure a cohesion in policy and coordination of REDD+ activities with other initiatives for a full and effective implementation.
- Bilateral discussions are ongoing with development partners who wish to support implementation of specific components and activities within the R-PP. Support from Japanese Government (JICA) to support MRV component is finalized and launched.
- The FCPF and FIP synergies were discussed at the FCPF mission in Feb 2011 with follow up at the FIP mission in May 2011. Key areas identified and agreed upon for coordination between the two initiatives is SESA regarding safeguards to ensure social and environmental integrity, the work on benefit sharing and development of REDD+ strategy options. FIP will use the findings of the analytical work of SESA for development of its investment plan.
- FCPF will link with FIP for scaled up financing for an effective and full implementation of REDD+.
- SECO/ITTO support for REDD+ pilot projects under discussion.
- Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous and Local Communities under the FIP will support the implementation of REDD+ at the community level.

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Technical training and roundtable discussion on redd+ and implementation modalities for traditional chiefs, demonstration project proponents and senior personnel of forestry commission was organized 21st August 2012.



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