

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF): Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) – External Review Form

Guidelines for Reviewers:

- 1) This review form is a record of your review, which may be disclosed for transparency. Please bear that in mind when filling it out.
- 2) Please summarize your comments-- address whatever you feel is important.
- 3) Please evaluate and mark (score) each of the 5 Summary Assessment review criteria from the FCPF Information Memorandum, the Participants Committee Selection Criteria, and the numbered R-PIN major topics, as requested in the right-hand column. Select a mark from the following scale: NA: Not Addressed. 1: Inadequately addresses criterion. 2: Barely addresses criterion. 3: Average, or adequately addresses criterion. 4: Good job of addressing criterion. 5: Excellent job of addressing criterion.

1) Country submitting the R-PIN: Ghana TAP Consolidated Review 2) Date of Review: July 4, 2008 – REVISED JULY 7	
I. Summary Assessment of the Quality and Completeness of the R-PIN: <i>Note with value of 1 – 5</i>	Mark (score):
Criterion (i): Ownership of the proposal by both the government and relevant stakeholders:	3
Criterion (ii): Consistency between national and sectoral strategies and proposed REDD Strategy:	3
Criterion (iii): Completeness of information and data provided:	2
Criterion (iv): Clarity of responsibilities for the execution of REDD activities to be financed:	2
Criterion (v): Feasibility of proposal and likelihood of success:	3
SUMMARY SCORE: add scores above and enter sum into box on right	SUM: 13
Improvements the country could make to R-PIN, and any TA needs for it: <p>In general Ghana has a reasonably progressive Forest Department and the opportunities in REDD can help shape the forest sector and help establish a stable Forest Estate. However this document should be further developed along the lines listed herein.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More information about the GIS database on “forest dependent communities” could be provided 2. More information about the Collaborative Forestry Committees and their role in a REDD strategy could be provided and the formation of a Forest Carbon Working Group 3. Use of the momentum created by the FLEGT program; VPA process; Ghana-FAO National Forest Programme and Sustainable Livelihood Programme to strengthen a national REDD strategy 4. An analysis of the challenges in setting a Forest Carbon Estate at a national scale that would also create 	

- economic incentives
5. More specific information on Technical Capacity Needs and the identification of key follow up targets to formally set up a national REDD Programme
 6. More information about the assistance requested is needed

II. Participants Committee Selection Criteria: Information

Relevance of country in REDD context: Priority to countries with: (i) substantial forest area and forest carbon stocks; and (ii) relevance of forests in economy, including livelihoods of forest dwellers and Indigenous Peoples:

Geographic and biome balance: across the world's main forest biomes.

Variety of approaches: Proposed innovative approaches to tackling deforestation and degradation; methods; testing new mechanisms and distribution of REDD revenues; and/or regionally important leadership.

III. Detailed Review of R-PIN Responses to Template Questions:

Please review the R-PIN quality and completeness in terms of addressing the major questions in the FCPF R-PIN template.

1. Government focal point, and ownership and consultation in producing the R-PIN:

The focal point though not explicitly stated is the Forestry Commission representing the Central Government. At that level it is appropriate but it seems that consultations with the Department of Environment and other departments such as Agriculture were limited. In fact consultations were only conducted with the Coalition of Rainforest Nations, which is inadequate for the purposes of the document which should have stronger cross-sectoral and public / affected community support at the national level. The proposal was developed by the Forestry Commission (Climate Change Unit and Inventory Unit) and the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (at University of Ghana); consulting the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN).

2. Identification of institutions responsible for: forest monitoring, law enforcement, conservation, and coordination across forest, agriculture and rural development:

This seems adequate for direct forest management and protection but not much has been mentioned from outside the forest sector. In fact coordination has been mentioned with the Ministries of Agriculture and that of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment but the form that such co-ordination takes has not been illustrated. It is however acknowledged that several organizations (especially governmental ministries) are involved within the forestry sector. The proposal didn't name the relevant civil society organizations and NGOs. Further information on the list of the most relevant organizations (public and private) and NGOs could be added.

3. Current country situation:

Where do deforestation and forest degradation occur, main causes, estimates of greenhouse gas emissions, data available? Key issues in forest law enforcement and forest sector governance?

The forces of deforestation and degradation have been adequately described. The information is limited, particularly at higher resolution scales, certainly insufficient to determine whether REDD strategies will be able to counter the drivers and proximate causes of deforestation.

It is surprising that the effects of fire, particularly uncontrolled forest fires have not been mentioned as a contributor of forest based emissions. More descriptive information is given about the Timber Resources Management; Forest Plantation Development and a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU for minimize illegal timber.

A figure on emissions was provided based on 1994 estimates but the logic behind the estimations was not provided and either has that figure been used to make estimates based on the 1996-1997 or 2001-2002 inventories

It is great that 2001-02 inventory data is available at the Remote Sensing Centre. Presumably data on % crown cover / density, basal area, diameter classes and heights and associated biomass equations are available. This could be very useful in providing estimates on available carbon stocks and would help build capacity in stock estimations by the Forest Designated Authority.

4. Data available on indigenous peoples and forest dwellers?

The R-PIN talks of a wide stakeholder consultation process including indigenous people. However, the communities are not mentioned further, and neither is their location on the country map. It is not clear if Ghana has populations that would be strictly referred to as forest dwellers but from the R-PIN, data is available on forest dependent resource owners, including forest fringe communities, which have influence on forest management activities. However it was not possible to review the applicability of the database for REDD. The proposal mentions the existence of a database at the Forestry Commission on forest-dependent resource users and other related attributes, but it is disappointing in not enabling the reader to understand the real scope and accuracy of the presumed database, or if the information is current or not.

It is nonetheless important under REDD for key communities adjacent or within key forested landscapes are mapped and long term monitoring systems are put in place in addition to long-term co-management programmes and benefit sharing schemes agreed and put into effect.

5. **Current strategy in place to address deforestation and forest degradation. What stakeholder process was used to arrive at it?**

From the document, several programs are in place that have the potential to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. But it is not clear how they relate to one another, and what platform they provide for an anticipated REDD strategy.

These program include: Forest Management Strategy; Collaborative Resource Management Programme (CRM); Forest Protection Strategy and National Biodiversity Strategy; High Forest Biodiversity Conservation Programme; partnerships with private organizations to promote ecotourism; Forest Management Certification; Presidential Special Initiatives on Plantation (PSI); African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG); Collaborative Forestry Committees (CFCs); among others. Little information was presented about the results and challenges of such programs and special the role of stakeholders consultation (e.g. the creation of Collaborative Forestry Committees).

Based on the above one could infer the strategies to include:

- Management plans with forest fringe communities but the extent or total coverage is not provided
- Pilot co-management arrangements
- Identification of high conservation value forests (globally significant biodiversity areas)
- Eco-tourism ventures in wildlife parks and forests
- Forest management and certification schemes including electronic log-tracking
- Forest plantation initiatives
- EU FLEGT Programs to reduce illegal logging

While the above are critical in the performance of a forest sector, they are not directly targeted at REDD even if they contribute significantly to REDD. Clearly more should be done to consciously manage forests and other carbon-rich landscapes to contribute to REDD.

6. What would be needed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation?

Not addressed yet, so far as one can learn from the proposal. In one expert's view, the RED (without the last D) potential of Ghana resides on funneling resources to maintain its threatened forest protected areas network.

Has country considered the potential relationship between REDD strategies and country's broader development agenda?

The information presented about the needs (FLEGT program at national level; VPA process at national level; Ghana-FAO National Forest Programme; Sustainable Livelihood Programmes) is general but provides a platform upon which comprehensive functional relationships can be designed between national development agenda and those of REDD

According to the proposal "The linkages between forest sector policies on REDD and other relevant sectors will be addressed in multi-stakeholder consultative meetings, workshops and seminars to provide a platform for interaction, discussion and debate and provide opportunities for the voice of different stakeholders to be heard and incorporated into the decision-making and policy process". This is very general, and needs to be followed by a clear set of objectives for REDD the pursuit of which will entail analyses of threats and opportunities, needed to adopt REDD at the national or sub-national levels.

Has any technical assistance been received, or is planned on REDD?

Minimal; IUCN is mentioned.

7. What stakeholder consultation process would country use for developing and implementing REDD under FCPF support?

The use of workshops, working groups, seminars, conferences and meetings. More clarity on the specific outputs or results of these consultations and their likely influences is highly recommended. There is a long list of non-prioritized processes, sectors, stakeholders and so on, without a clear vision of how such processes would address the need to build consensus and ownership over the proposed REDD strategies.

The IP reviewer proposes a wide consultation process for indigenous communities, including sensitization and capacity building to implement REDD- to clarify objectives and advantages of REDD. Preferably this should result in a separate plan on REDD for indigenous forest dweller communities in cooperation with indigenous representatives and organizations. The sub plan should involve indigenous representatives and or organizations.

8. Implementing REDD strategies: challenges to introducing effective REDD strategies, and how might they be overcome?

The country lacks most elements that a REDD strategy would need to build upon, meaning there is a long road ahead. The proposal could do a much better job in reading through the challenges and barriers, and advancing concrete ideas on how to overcome them within their national context. Some challenges are noted:

- Need for a National Consensus on REDD in forest policies within the broader framework on contributions to mitigate climate change
- Adequate incentives to compensate countries to incur the short and long-term opportunity costs of REDD
- Identification and promotion of REDD-friendly land management activities
- Affordable clean energy technologies across rural Africa.

Would performance-based payments though REDD be a major incentive for implementing a more coherent strategy to tackle deforestation?

To quote from the proposal: "Yes, REDD payments will provide the economic incentives for sustaining the livelihoods..., for their social, cultural and economic needs." This does not give much information.

9. REDD strategy monitoring and implementation:**How forest cover and land use change are monitored today, and any constraints in this approach?**

There is no systematic monitoring of deforestation but the forest inventories in Ghana have yielded useful information. Past resource assessments appear to have been motivated by economic development concerns based on forest resources not carbon stocks as global goods. More information could be provided on this question.

Without adequate incentives for regular and systematic monitoring of forest cover, the costs of inventories, other than limited pre-harvest inventories have not been easy to justify and finance from local resources. A REDD participating country must have a system in place which would even require permanent sample plots covering the entire designated

forest estate to monitor geographical and country-wide forest cover changes. In this regard, Liberia has made a very good start.

10. Additional benefits of potential REDD strategy, and how to monitor them: biodiversity and rural livelihood?

The proposal is to use the Genetic Heat Index for biodiversity and income level per person for rural livelihood benefits. No further information is provided, so it is difficult to tell what the Index really measures, as far as biodiversity is concerned.

11. What assistance is country likely to request from FCPF Readiness Mechanism?

The assistance asked is for the establishment of a “consultative process among all stakeholders”; a “forestry forum network”; a “Community Investment Fund”; a “system for providing targeted financial incentives for REDD”; a “system to monitor emissions and emissions reductions from deforestation and degradation”, a “communication strategy for REDD”; among others. However, I would suggest more clarity along the lines of the last below:

- Establishing the national forest estate
- Setting up of a national sampling grid to monitor the forest estate
- Building capacity to estimate standing carbon stocks and associated increments
- Building national capacity to estimating emissions from various forest types and identifying various emission mechanisms (direct harvesting, conversion of forest lands to other uses, fire)

12. Donors and international partners already cooperating with country on REDD.

IUCN is mentioned to “provide technical assistance on REDD-related awareness creation”.

13. Country’s Potential Next Steps and Schedule:

Workshops, conferences, meetings, durbars are planned to “awareness creation on REDD”. It’s not clear how these events will help in developing the REDD strategy.

14. Attachments and their usefulness:

The information provided, such as the inventory data is useful but insufficient as a basis to evaluate the proposal. Inventory maps, with layers on demographics and land capability classifications could have strengthened the information base. In addition more attention should be paid to the estimation of carbon stocks and how these could be monitored.