

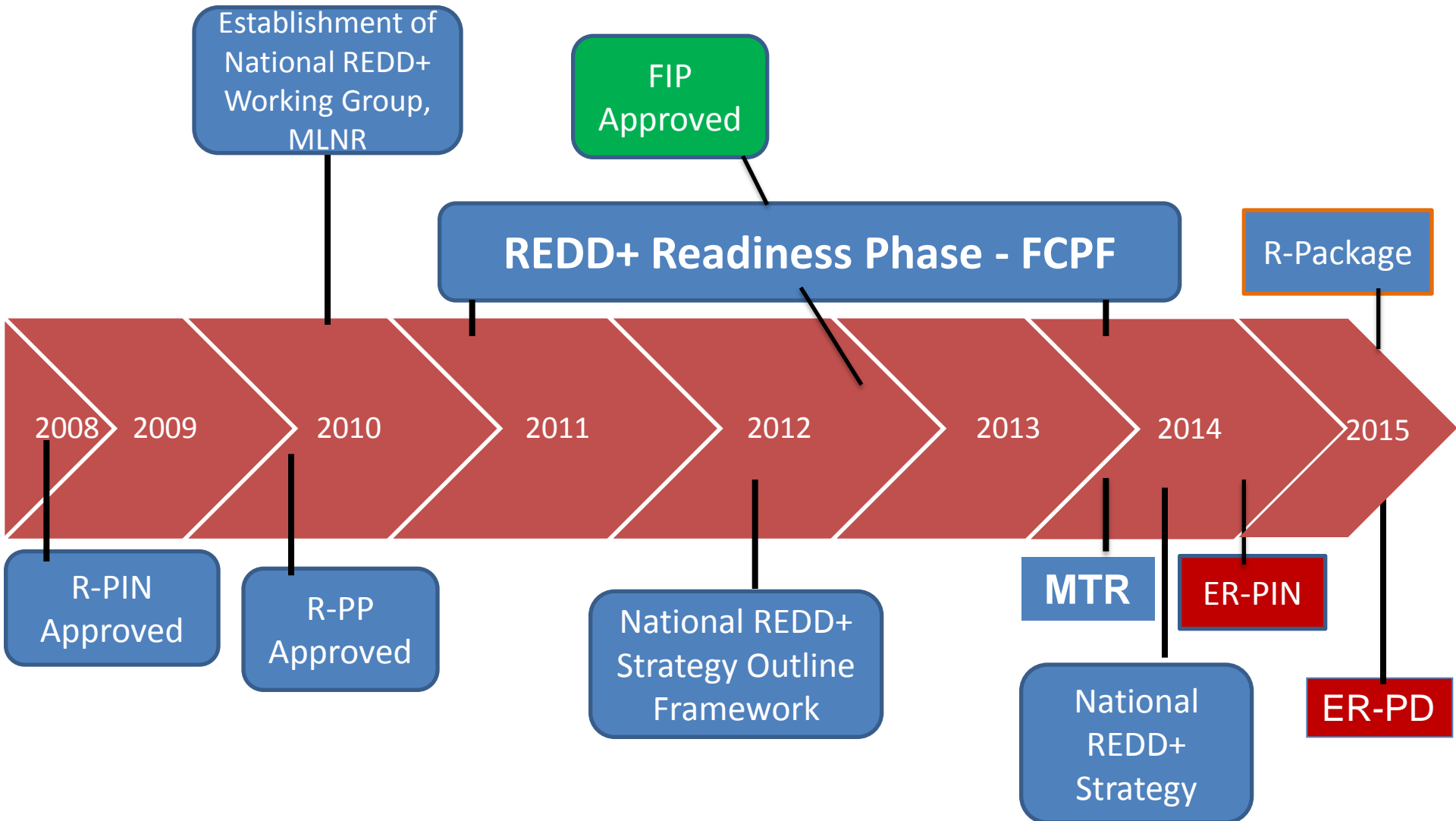


# **GHANA' S MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORT AND REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

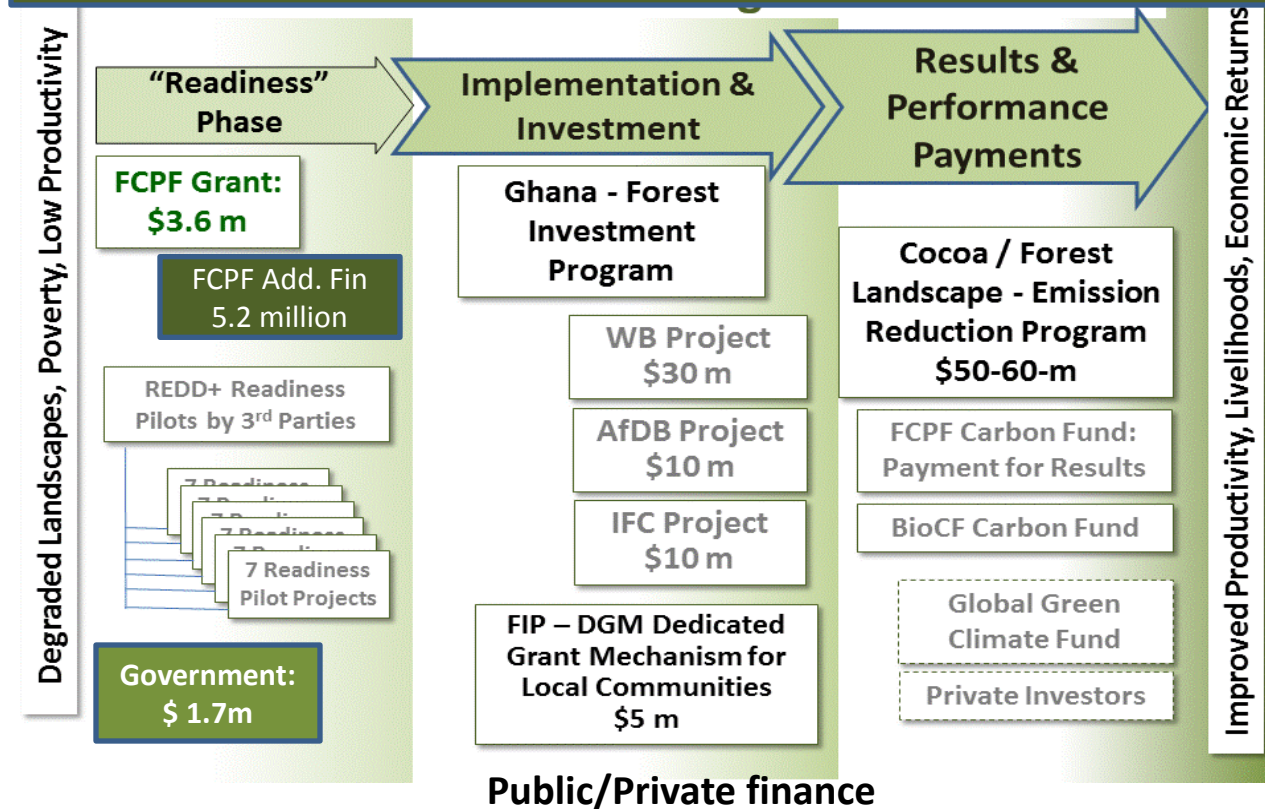
**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility  
17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Participants Committee (PC 17)  
Lima, Peru – July 1 - 4, 2014  
Robert K. Bamfo & Yaw Kwakye  
National REDD+ Secretariat, Ghana**



# REDD+ Readiness Process: Timelines



## Ghana's Progression on REDD+ & Financing Sources



Phased approach to REDD+ strongly leverages on other initiatives: FIP, FLEGT/ VPA, UN-REDD, Forest Preservation Programme, GlZ, etc.

# REDD+ Readiness Progress Update

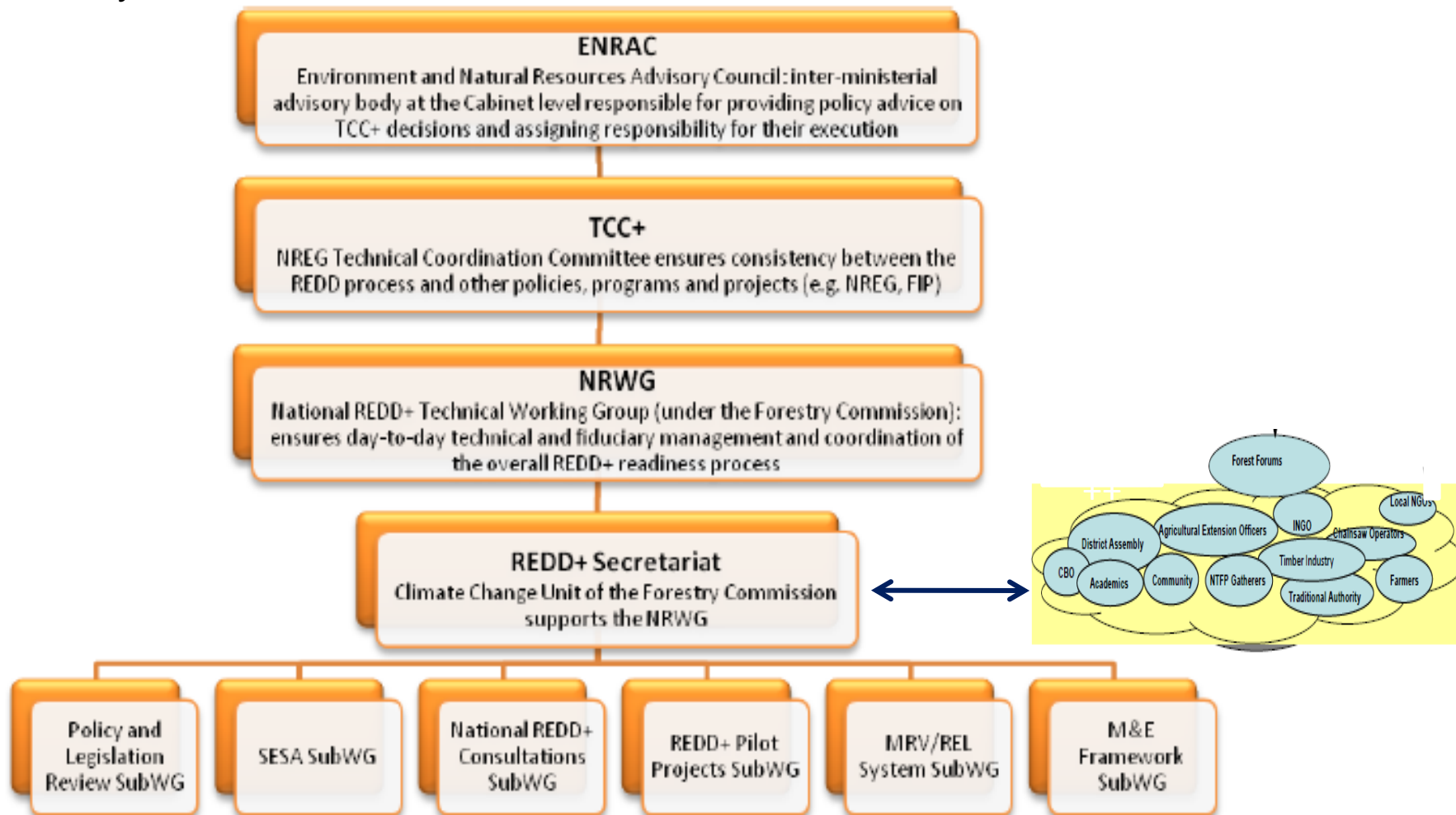
Component	Sub-Component	Progress Status
Readiness Organisation and Consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Progressing well, further development required.
	1b. Consultation, Organisation and Outreach	Significant Progress
REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a. Assessment of Land use, land use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance	Progressing well, further development required.
	2b. REDD+ Strategy options	Progressing well, further development required.
	2. Implementation framework	Progressing well, further development required.
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Progressing well, further development required.
Reference Emission Level / Reference Level	3a. REL/RL	Progressing well, further development required.
Monitoring Systems for Forests & Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	Progressing well, further development required.
	4b. Information System for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	Further development required

# Key Achievements - Component 1: Readiness

## Organisation and Consultation

### Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements

✓ Institutional arrangements for Ghana's REDD+ implementation has been set up and is fully functional.



# Key Achievements – Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation

## Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangement

- ✓ Project Oversight Committee (POC) of the Forestry Commission responsible for coordinating, monitoring, and enhancing synergies of all donor funded projects
- ✓ REDD+ readiness process has been carried out in an open and transparent manner: e.g. in selection of REDD+ pilots and the active engagement of stakeholders.
- ✓ A sub-website on REDD+ has been developed under the FC official website [www.fcghana.org/nrs](http://www.fcghana.org/nrs)
- ✓ Database created at National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) for registering of individuals and organisations engaged in REDD+ interventions in Ghana.
- ✓ Training and capacity building for NRWG, sub-working groups and other REDD+ actors in Ghana.
- ✓ Full adherence to World bank financial management and procurement procedures and Ghana 's Public procurement authority guidelines in the use of REDD+ funds.





# Key Achievements – Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation

## Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach

- ✓ REDD+ Communication Strategy developed and being implemented
- ✓ Preparation and distribution of 10,000 brochures on REDD+ in Ghana
- ✓ Collaboration with civil society platforms, e.g. Forest Forums, for dissemination of information to grassroot forest communities and other stakeholders
- ✓ Development of road map for mainstreaming gender considerations into Ghana's REDD+ process undertaken in partnership with IUCN.
- ✓ Consultative workshops for REDD+ pilot proponents and for stakeholders at the pilot sites including traditional authorities, land owners and local communities.
- ✓ Extensive consultations undertaken under ongoing SESA process in a transparent, inclusive, culturally appropriate manner



# Key Achievements – Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

## Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

- ✓ During preparation of the R-PP, there was validation of analytical work undertaken previously in relation to the assessment of forest law, policy and governance under various natural resource management programs.
- ✓ The key issues identified include: land tenure, natural resource rights, benefit sharing, livelihoods, forest law, policy and governance.
- ✓ Ongoing detailed assessment of drivers of deforestation within the High Forest Zone is part of the development of Ghana's Emission Reductions Programme.





# Tree Tenure and Carbon Rights

- The revised Forest and Wildlife Policy (2012) acknowledges the challenges surrounding tree tenure and carbon rights, and recognizes the need to address these to ensure long-term viability of REDD+ .
- Outcomes of analytical work on carbon rights in Ghana by Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) recommends that carbon could be legally defined as an ecosystem service or natural resource for which rights could be vested and what the implications are for benefit sharing arrangements.
- The outcomes from this analysis will provide the basis for informed policy dialogue for tree tenure reforms in the near future
- Piloting of tree tenure reforms envisaged under NREG-Technical Assistance and through the CREMA mechanism as well for lessons

# Key Achievements – Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

## Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options

- ✓ 13 REDD+ candidate strategy options identified in Ghana's R-PP
- ✓ Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options report has condensed these into 3 strategy options which will be subjected to further stakeholder consultations.
  - **Cocoa growing areas, agro-forestry/climate smart cocoa, improvement of multi-stakeholder process and land/tree tenure**
  - **Transition and Savannah Areas, agro-forestry for shea, fuel wood, inclusion of vulnerable groups, clarification of land/tree tenure,**
  - **Policy reform to address timber market, stakeholder involvement**
- ✓ Key steps include assessment of social, environmental and political feasibility, risks and opportunities, screening of options criteria, and analysis costs and benefits of priority options
- ✓ Role of private sector is critical for achieving success

Candidate Options for National REDD+ Strategy	
A. Improve the quality of multi-stakeholder dialogue and decision-making	
B. Clarify rights regime	
C. Improve FLEGT	
D. Address unsustainable timber harvesting thru sustainable timber supply	
E. Address problem of market supply	
F. Mitigate effects of agricultural expansion (cocoa) in High Forest Zone	
G. Strengthen local decentralized management of natural resources	
H. Improve sustainability of fuelwood use	
I. Improve quality of fire-affected forests and rangelands	
J. Address local market demand.	
K. Improve returns to small-scale enterprise	
L. Improve regulation of mining activities to reduce forest degradation	
M. Implement actions to address natural risks (acts of God).	10

# Key Achievements – Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

## Sub-component 2c: Implementation framework

- ✓ The national REDD+ strategy will elevate relevant issues of REDD+ for incorporation into future policy reforms. Ghana's Forest and Wildlife Policy (2012) currently recognizes REDD+ mechanism in broad terms, without specific recommendations on policy action.
- ✓ REDD+ anchored in national Climate Change Policy (2012): The policy recognizes REDD+ as a fundamental component of Ghana's mitigation, adaptation and low carbon growth agenda.
- ✓ Draft report on the development of a benefit sharing mechanism for Ghana's REDD+ is under review by stakeholders. Proposed 3 Options:
  - ✓ Option A corresponds with National approach, Option B the Sub-national/Project-level approach while Option C corresponds with Nested/Hybrid approach.
- ✓ Concept note on a national carbon accounting Registry has been developed, and it recommends a centralized system, with domestic approval requirements proposed.

# Key Achievements – Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

## Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts

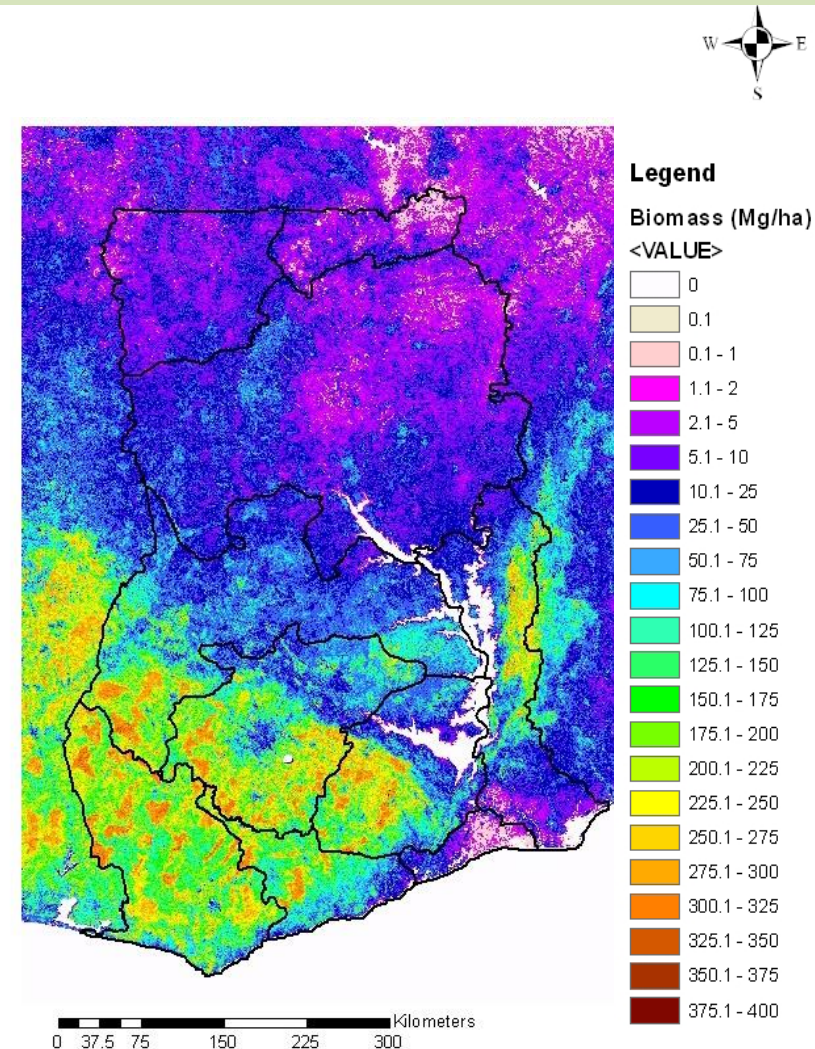
- ✓ Preparation of SESA/ESMF is advanced and expected to be completed by September, 2014.
- ✓ Well aligned with Cancun safeguards, WB Safeguards and draws on other systems such as CCBA
- ✓ Environmental and social risk assessments of the strategy options conducted in different ecological zones through stakeholder consultations across the country, and will serve as input for the REDD+ Strategy
- ✓ One Asst. Manager designated as SESA Focal Person at the National REDD+ Secretariat to ensure effective implementation and compliance monitoring for REDD+ safeguards
- ✓ Safeguards Framework capacity building workshop hosted by the Bank in mid-June 2014



# Key Achievements – Component 3: Reference Emission Level / Reference Level

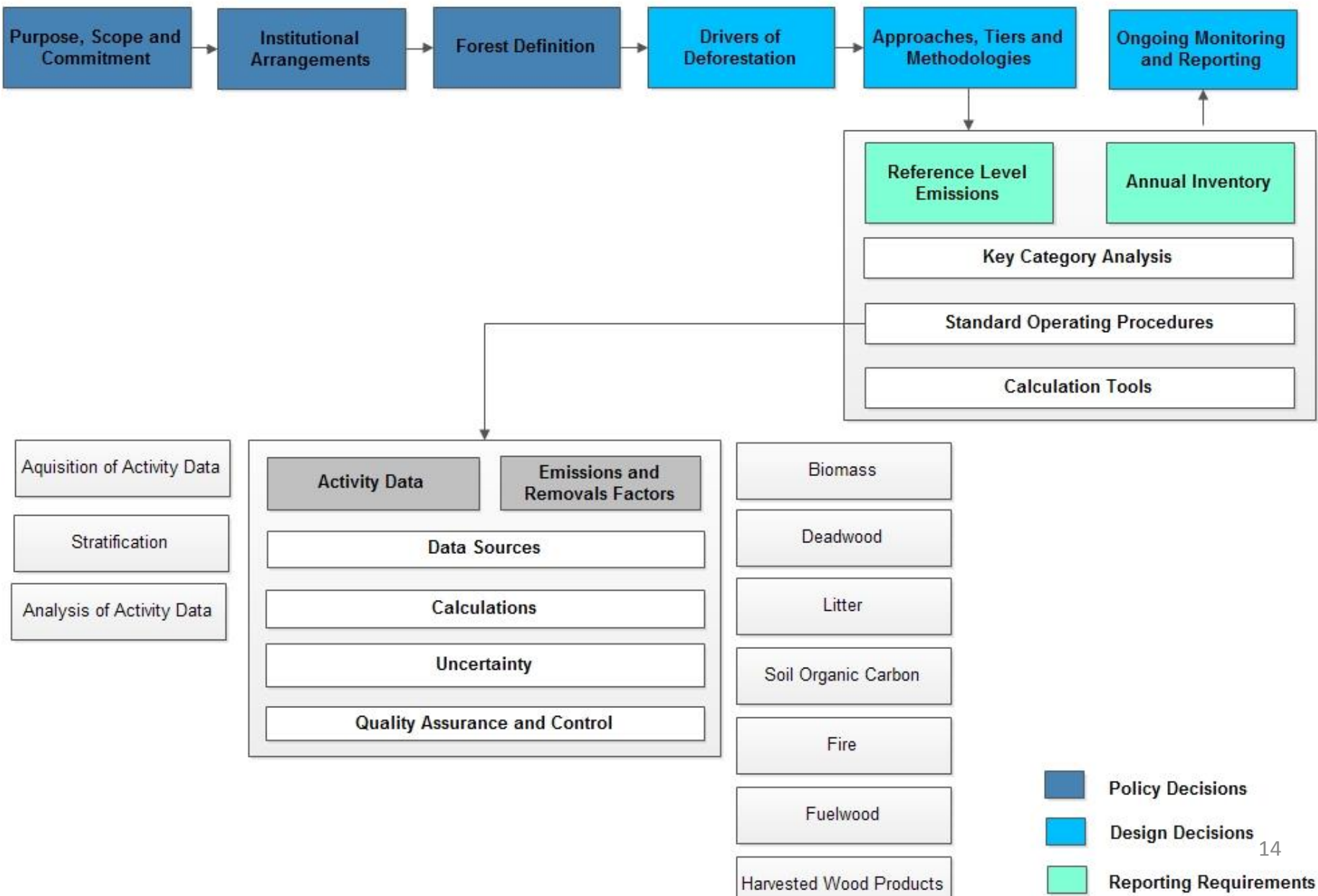
## Sub-component 3a: REL/RL

- ✓ REL/ RL builds on earlier works such as collaborative efforts between the FC, Katoomba, NCRC and Oxford University to develop a country biomass map
- ✓ Significant work on carbon estimation also conducted under the Forest Preservation Programme, with satellite data procured and analysed for the 1990-2000-2010 epochs.
- ✓ Training and capacity building of staff of the NRS and other REDD+ key stakeholders on setting up REL and MRV ongoing.





# Ghana's MRV Design Documentation



# Key Achievements – Development of Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards

## Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System

- ✓ The establishment of the REL/ RL and the National Forest Monitoring System are being treated jointly

## Sub-component 4b: Information System for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards

- ✓ This sub-component was added after the approval of Ghana's R-PP
- ✓ However, there are ongoing discussions on the building blocks, system design and the potential to integrate the Information system with the development of a national registry system for REDD+

# Highlights of Independent Assessment Report

In March, 2014, the NRS commissioned an international REDD+ expert to carry out an independent assessment of its readiness process to date. Key findings of the assessment include the following:

## **POSITIVE OBSERVATIONS**

- Civil Society's interest in Ghana's REDD+ plans has moved from resistant to supportive. This is due, in part, to an effective stakeholder engagement process that built off the successful VPA Platform
- The mandates of the national REDD+ institutions are clearly established and mutually supportive.
- The consultancies are strong and with a high degree of local ownership
- A well-developed, comprehensive Communications Strategy has been finalized
- Available evidence and opinion of participants and stakeholders indicates that Ghana is on track to completing the implementation activities identified in its R-PP by the end of 2014.

## **CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED**

- Critical consultation processes have been left to near the end of the Grant Term
- The persistence of traditional land tenure arrangements within the colonial land tenure system is a challenge for creating policy incentives for REDD+
- There is a need to manage, and in some cases deflate, expectations of vast financial rewards from REDD+
- Expansion of the scope of activities comes along with capacity limitations of the National REDD+ Secretariat that needs to be addressed urgently

# Key Gaps & Challenges

- ✓ Notwithstanding the progress made, there have been some gaps and challenges;
  - ✓ Need for national fund management arrangement for the mobilizing, receipt and disbursement of REDD+ funds
  - ✓ Significant challenges in convening ENRAC meetings frequently;
  - ✓ Operationalisation of the Grievance Redress Mechanism
  - ✓ Testing mechanisms for incentivizing non-carbon benefits, benefit sharing, carbon rights and tenure issues.
  - ✓ Establishing operational REDD+ MRV system to incorporate assessment of forest degradation. Current work addresses deforestation.
  - ✓ Ensuring that key REDD+ actors particularly local communities are able to comprehend the technicalities of REDD+ REL/ RL/ MRV;
  - ✓ Lack of a functional national Land Use Plan presents difficulties in spatial modeling and forest monitoring.

# REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCE

- The readiness grant of US\$ 3.4m has set the platform for REDD+ and contributed immensely to the realization of substantial progress in Ghana's REDD+ readiness process;
- However, mid term review shows need for additional work and financing gap of US\$ 5.2m to meet Ghana's REDD+ objectives.
- Ghana has submitted an application for additional funding to fill this gap and ensure that the R-Package to be submitted in 2015 will incorporate all the elements of Ghana's REDD+ readiness process, in line with Readiness Assessment Framework guidance



# Budget for Additional Activities

Sub-component	Activities	Estimated Cost (US\$)
1a. National Readiness Management Arrangements	Establish REDD+ fund mobilization and management arrangements fn	200,000.00
1b. Consultation, Participation and Outreach	Communication and consultations on MRV including SIS, benefit sharing and GRM.	200,000.00
2c. Implementation Framework	Establishment and operationalization of Ghana's REDD+ registry	200,000.00
	Operationalization of the Grievance Redress Mechanism	200,000.00
	Project preparation support for piloting	800,000.00
	Validation of the suitability of appropriate benefit sharing mechanisms	200,000.00
	Update to the national strategy as relevant	100,000.00
4a. National Forest Monitoring System	Acquisition of data on forest degradation	500,000.00
	Operationalization of the MRV system for deforestation and forest degradation	2,600,000.00
4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Design and implementation of the Information System	200,000
Grand total		5,200,000.00

# Way Forward

- Ghana's readiness process is on track and there are strong pointers that it will be completed on schedule
- Linkage with related initiatives such as FIP and EU-FLEGT has been strengthened
- Ghana's Emission Reduction Programme which is at the design phase will benefit from a strong REDD+ readiness position
- Stakeholder engagement to be sustained

# THANK YOU

