

REDD+ ANNUAL COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORT

COUNTRY: GHANA

PERIOD: JANUARY – SEPTEMBER, 2013

1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ghana has been undertaking REDD+ readiness activities since July, 2008 when the nation's REDD+ Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) was approved by the FCPF. A \$200,000 FCPF Preparation Grant Agreement for REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) was signed on 1 April, 2009 and disbursed by November, 2009.

The R-PP was submitted to FCPF in December, 2009. The R-PP was further assessed and approved by FCPF PC at the PC5 in Gabon as per Resolution PC/5/2010/3 of March, 2010 subject to revision to address specific comments. The revised R-PP was submitted to the FCPF in accordance with the PC5 resolution in December, 2010.

In early October 2011, the FCPF Readiness Grant preparation which included - fiduciary arrangements, World Bank due diligence and preparation of R-PP Assessment Note were completed. The FCPF Readiness Grant Agreement was signed in October, 2011 and the formal launch of the REDD+ Readiness Programme took place on the 26th of April 2012 in Accra. The launch was attended by a cross-section of stakeholder representatives.

This report provides an update of the progress that has been made in the implementation of the R-PP from January to September, 2013 and includes the key issues, challenges and risks that have been identified during the implementation process.

The report has five main sections. **Section 2** of the report provides a summary of the key issues and problems that have been identified during the implementation of the R-PP and also outlines the next steps to be undertaken under the R-PP implementation.

Section 3 provides data on the progress made in the R-PP implementation during the reporting period. An analysis of major issues, challenges and risks which have been identified thus far are presented in **Section 4** whereas the key lessons learnt during the period of R-PP implementation are presented in **Section 5**.

1.2 Update on Ghana's REDD+ Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) Framework

The purpose of Ghana's REDD+ Monitoring and Evaluation framework is to encourage efficient and transparent management of the financial and technical resources that have been made available to the country for implementation of REDD+ readiness activities. The framework will also help the country to keep track of its progress towards readiness and identify and address challenges as they emerge. The Program M&E framework will therefore help the country to monitor the schedule of activities to be undertaken, the outputs and the final outcome using simple indicators for project performance. It will also provide real time feedback to the government and other stakeholders of how well the preparatory work towards REDD+ readiness is progressing.

The M&E Sub- working group is to oversee the development and implementation of REDD+ Readiness M&E framework. The specific considerations that will be made during the development of the M & E framework include the following:

1. The framework would be designed in the context of natural resources management.
2. The design of the framework will involve high level donor coordination within the natural resources sector in Ghana.
3. The process will take into consideration the M & E frameworks of complementary initiatives such as those of the National Forest Plantation Development Programme (NFPDP), Non-Legally Binding Instrument (NLBI), Forest Investment Programme (FIP) and Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade/ Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT/ VPA).
4. Broad stakeholder consultations and participation will be undertaken.
5. Strong synergy and alignment with relevant government plans, policies and programmes including the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), VPA-FLEGT, NREG program, FCPF and FIP in terms of timing and sequencing.

The significance of building synergies and linkages between the M and E framework of related initiatives is to avoid duplication, overlap of efforts, and ensure that resources are directed efficiently towards sustainable forest management objectives. In addition, this would provide an opportunity for coordination of the REDD+ scheme with other projects and programmes in order to achieve key national development goals.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the M & E framework are currently being developed by the M & E sub-working group. It is envisaged that the ToR would be ready by the end of October, 2013 and afterwards the requisite processes will be initiated to engage consultants, relevant working groups and key stakeholders for the development and finalisation of the M & E framework. The broad scope of the ToR covers the following:

1. Development of a comprehensive M&E logical framework to keep track of progress towards REDD+ readiness in order to identify gaps, shortfalls, achievements and key lessons as they emerge.
2. Alignment of the REDD+ M & E framework with sectoral and national systems, for example, NREG/NLBI/FLEGT.
3. Development of a reporting mechanism to inform progress of project implementation.
4. Review of the progress of implementation for recommendation of appropriate measures to improve project performance.
5. Stakeholder validation of M&E framework

2. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This section provides an overview of the progress achieved to date in Ghana's R-PP implementation in order to achieve the following: to examine the level of successes or lapses; to analyse the factors that have led to the results attained; and to assess the challenges and opportunities thereof, and lessons and experiences to be drawn.

A National REDD+ Secretariat has been established at the Climate Change Unit of the Forestry Commission as the mode for the coordination of REDD+ activities. The Unit is staffed by professionals employed by the Forestry Commission. The head of the secretariat also serves as the coordinator of Ghana's REDD+ programme. The staff have benefitted from various capacity building and training

programmes, both locally and internationally. Various office logistics, including office equipments and a vehicle for field work have been procured and deployed to enhance the operations of the secretariat.

Other implementation structures such as the National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG) have been constituted and is hosted by the Ministry for Lands and Natural Resources. Routine meetings are held for this group as well as the various sub-working groups that have been formed out of this body to provide supervision and direction for thematic areas of the REDD+ mechanism. The involvement of the working groups in the implementation of the R-PP have been highly practical and positive, especially in the development of Terms of Reference for the engagement of consultants for various assignments; development of selection criteria for the pilot projects as well as in ensuring the concrete participation of key stakeholders in REDD+ related assignments at various levels.

Awareness creation on REDD+ which is recognised as an important element of the readiness process is being tackled in a comprehensive manner. Frontline staff of the Forestry Commission who are in constant interaction with forest communities are being trained across the country through a REDD+ Education and Sensitization drive to ensure that they can communicate REDD+ effectively to the the grass-root level. This process is cost-effective and a sustainable approach to enhancing communication on REDD+. Furthermore, a Communication Specialist has been engaged to develop a communication strategy for the REDD+ programme. The Communication Specialist has submitted a draft report which should be finalised after comments and views from stakeholders have been received and incorporated.

The development of a National REDD+ Strategy for Ghana is being approached in a manner which should ensure that the final output created would capture and reflect the views and thinking of the relevant stakeholders, particularly on the path that need to be taken to attain the objectives and goals of REDD+ in a manner that is strongly linked to the broader national development agenda. The process being followed to award consultancies for a national dialogue on REDD+ strategy options as well as SESA which will feed into to the formulation of the Strategy are almost concluded. It is anticipated these activities, when accomplished will lead to the realization of this important milestone within schedule. Stakeholder mapping necessary for ensuring that all key stakeholders are adequately represented during such discourses has already been undertaken.

Various capacity building programmes targeting staff of the Forestry Commission and other relevant institutions have been undertaken to enhance the knowledge and expertise on carbon stocks monitoring through forest inventories, GIS and remote sensing in the country. This goal has been achieved through collaborative efforts involving various actors from research and academic institutions, NGOs, and development partners under various projects in a coordinated manner.

One of the lessons learned in Ghana's R-PP implementation is the need for building linkages among the many on-going projects within the natural resources sector that impact land use. This synergy can only be achieved through stronger coordination at the highest level of governance. Consequently, the Ghana National Development Commission needs to be brought on board the NRWG to strengthen the coordination amongst the relevant stakeholders.

The next steps envisaged to be completed under the RPP includes the following:

- Fourteen (14) candidate strategies have been identified in the R-PP under two broad thematic areas: a) Timber policy and supply and b) Wider aspects of forest policy including agro-forestry and other carbon conserving activities. These strategies will be subjected to social and environmental impact assessment and extensive discussions during the consultation process for the strategy development. The REDD+ piloting phase will provide an opportunity for testing the

candidate strategies for their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, equitability and applicability within the national context.

- A consulting firm has been engaged for the construction of a Reference Level/ Reference Emission Level (RL/ REL) for the REDD+ scheme. Additionally, the Forest Research Institute of Ghana has been engaged to develop modalities for benefit sharing for the REDD+ scheme. The contract document for the Strategic Environment and Social Assessment (SESA) for the scheme has also been completed. These activities are very crucial for the successful implementation of the REDD+ scheme and consequently the REDD+ secretariat would closely monitor the work to be undertaken.

3. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS DURING THE PERIOD

3.1 PROGRESS AT THE IMPACT LEVEL (if any data available)

Number of tons of CO2 emissions from deforestation and forest degradation reduced in the country during the reporting period as compared to the measured REL/RL, if any (*FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.1.B.*):

National Forest Reference Emission Level (REL)/Reference Level (RL) defined: n/a

Number of tons reduced during the reporting period as compared to REL/RL: n/a

Amount of non-FCPF investments received under R-PP process (*FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.2.B.i.*):

Source: Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for stakeholder consultations

Amount provided: US\$ 22,000.00

Amount of non-FCPF investments received for implementation of ER Programs (e.g. FIP, bilateral donors, private sector), if relevant (*FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.2.B.i.*):

Source: 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]

Amount provided: US \$ 7,800,000.00

Source: GIZ Supporting Ghana in Forest Monitoring based on German Remote Sensing Technology.

Amount provided: € 500,000.00

Source: Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for Biomass map

Amount provided: US \$ 126,063.00

Level of multi-stakeholder participation and engagement in decision making processes related to emission reductions and forest resource management (*FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.3.A.*):

Process of engagement and consultation implemented

A call was made both locally and internationally for interested organisations, individuals and institutions to

submit feasible REDD+ proposals that would be subjected to piloting and testing on the ground. A total of seven feasible proposals were selected out of 17 proposals submitted. The project proponents have been taken through a series of training workshops on REDD+ related issues. Their views and opinions have been sought to define the right implementation modalities for the pilots.

Similarly, there have been open invitations for all REDD+ actors in the country to register with the national REDD+ secretariat. These actors/ registrants are continually being engaged in workshops and other participatory activities to ensure that REDD+ activities are coordinated.

Traditional authorities and landowners were also at different forums consulted on the right approaches to REDD+ implementation. Frontline staff of the Forestry Commission are also being sensitised on REDD+ readiness and also their role in the process.

Level of participation and engagement for the following stakeholder categories:

- **Government Agencies:**

The multi-stakeholder sub-working groups which have been formed under the REDD+ R-PP implementation draws from the expertise of several government agencies including the Ministries of: Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP); Food and Agriculture (MoFA); Energy and Petroleum; Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR); Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) and Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD); as well as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Minerals Commission, Energy Commission and other divisions and departments of the Forestry Commission. An overview of the coordination structure and composition of various institutions and working groups within Ghana for the purpose of REDD+ implementation is detailed in Figure 1 below:

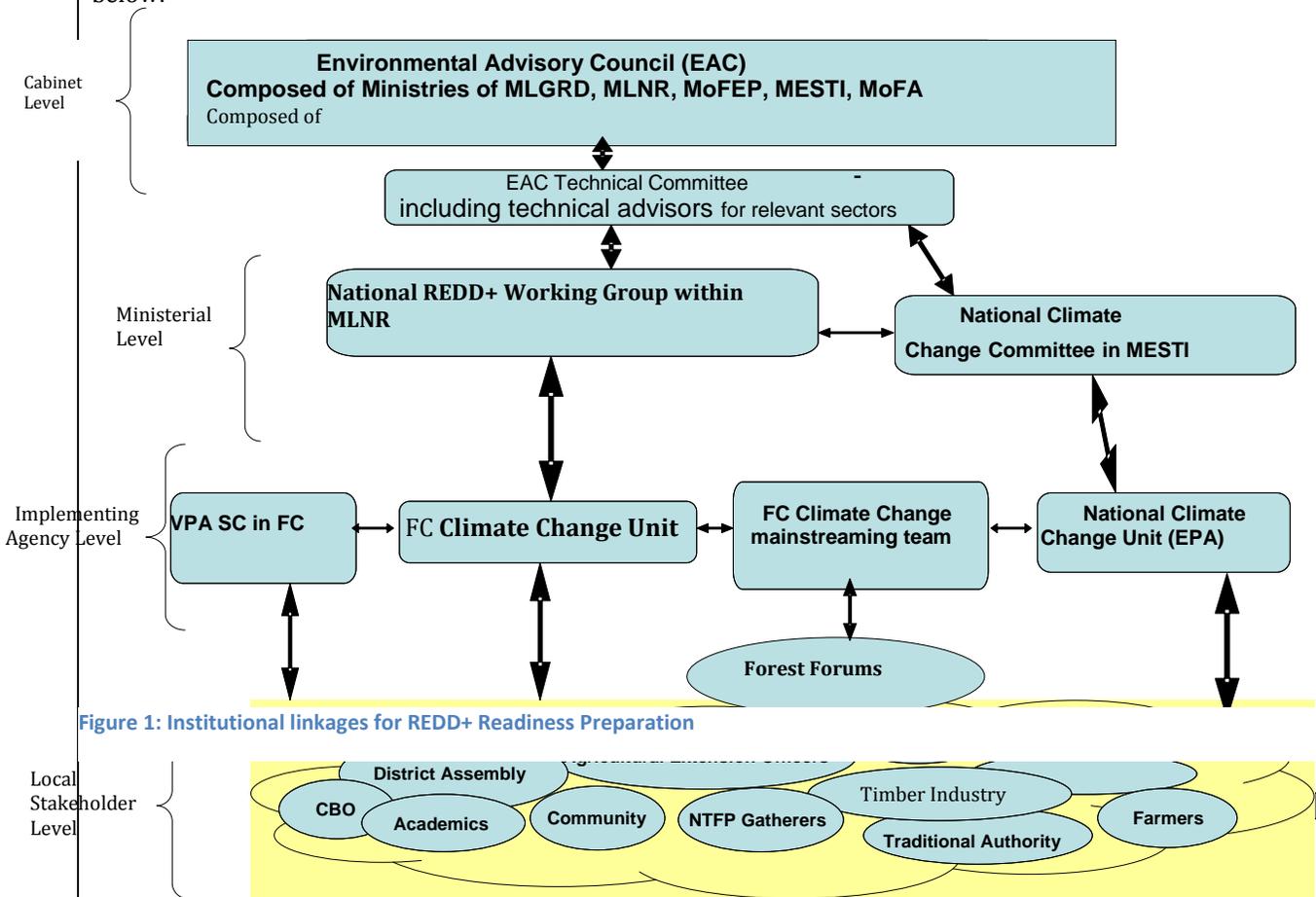


Figure 1: Institutional linkages for REDD+ Readiness Preparation

- **Forest-dependent communities, if any:**

One of the key aims of Ghana's R-PP preparation and implementation is the active engagement and participation of forest dependent/ local communities. To date, significant progress has been made through outreach programmes involving local communities, traditional authorities and land owners. Local communities are represented on the National REDD+ Working Group.

- **Women:**

A Gender roadmap has been developed to mainstream issues on gender and vulnerable groups in the implementation of the REDD+ readiness process. It sets out guidelines and policy approaches that ensure the promotion of women's rights and effective participation in REDD+ issues.

- **Youth:**

Youth involvement in the environment sector particularly in afforestation and reforestation activities in Ghana is very well-documented. On the other hand, the youth are engaged in many socio-economic activities that undermine environmental integrity e.g. illegal small scale mining (galamsey), charcoal production, illegal chainsawing, group hunting of wildlife etc. The communication strategy therefore identifies the youth as an important target group with huge potential for the advancement of REDD+ in Ghana.

- **CSOs:**

The REDD+ secretariat works closely with both local and international Civil Society Groups, such as Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), IUCN, Forest Watch, Tropenbos International (TBI), Rainforest Alliance (RFA), Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC) and Conservation Alliance (CA). Some of the activities they are engaged in include REDD+ awareness creation, capacity building, REDD+ pilot activities and field research. Some of the CSOs, for example, Civic Response and TBI, serve on the National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG).

- **Private entities:**

Private sector actors are involved with the REDD+ process at various levels such as policy formulation and on the ground implementation as well as provision of various services. For example, the Ghana Timber Association and Ghana Timber Millers Organisation serve as a liaison between the REDD+ Secretariat and the timber industry while Portal Limited and Vicdor Limited are engaged in REDD+ demonstration activities. Other corporate institutions including Pricewaterhouse Coopers provide consultancy services.

- **Donors:**

Donors such as the World Bank (FCPF), GIZ, Japanese Government, Swiss Government (SECO), USAID, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation provide multilateral, bilateral and private funds to advance the REDD+ process in Ghana through targeted support for institutional strengthening, capacity building, forest monitoring, stakeholder engagement, REDD+ demonstration activities, policy formulation etc. The development partners have a representative on the NRWG.

- **Research/ Academia:**

Institutions such as the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG), the Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources (FRNR) of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (CERSGIS) of the University of Ghana (UG) and the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) have been actively involved in providing technical assistance for Ghana's REDD+ readiness process.

Nb. and type of policy reforms initiated, completed or underway complying to REDD+ standards, if any (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 1.3.B.):

Number of policy reforms during the reporting period that are:

- Underway: National REDD+ Strategy; National Forest Plantation Development Strategy; Forest Development Master Plan.
- Completed: Revised Forest and Wildlife Policy 2013; National Climate Change Policy 2013.

Please describe these policy reforms:

- A major revision of Ghana's Forest and Wildlife policy has been undertaken to ensure that the policy is consistent with on-going reforms in the forestry sector and on-going multinational initiatives such as the REDD+ scheme, VPA and NLBI.
- The National Climate Change Policy recognises that low carbon growth could open up access to international funding through initiatives such as REDD+.

3.2 PROGRESS AT THE OUTCOME AND OUTPUT LEVEL

3.2.1. REDD Readiness Progress

- Outcome level

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.):

Progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package:

COMPONENT	SUB-COMPONENT	PROGRESS
1. REDD+ Strategy	1a. National Readiness Management Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various capacity building sessions on GIS, remote sensing and carbon stock assessment for various categories of staff in the FC and other relevant sectors have been undertaken.
	1b. Information Sharing and Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database for REDD+ actors updated for the purpose of networking and capacity building. • Draft communication strategy under review. • The REDD+ web page of the FC website regularly updated • Publication of REDD+ related articles in the FCs quarterly newsletter.
	1c. Consultation and Participation Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation of forest fringe communities in selected REDD+ pilot areas. • On-going sensitization of frontline staff of the Forestry Commission.
2. Implementation Framework	2a. Land Use, Forest Law, Policy, and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Forest and Wildlife policy published.
	2b. REDD+ Strategy options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consulting firm has been engaged to coordinate national dialogue leading to the formulation of the National REDD+ strategy.
	2c. REDD+ Implementation Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven (7) REDD+ Pilot projects selected. SECO providing support for off-reserve pilots. • A project implementation committee has been established at the Forestry Commission. • A consultant has been engaged to develop modalities for conflict resolution.
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consulting firm has been engaged to conduct a Social and Environmental Safeguards Assessment

3. Reference Level	Develop a reference level	A consulting firm has been engaged to develop a Reference Level/ Reference Emission Level (RL/ REL) and MRV.
4. Forest Monitoring System	4a. Emissions and removals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MRV and REL construction is being treated jointly as indicated above. The Forest Preservation Programme (FPP) and GIZ also provided support to improve the country's forest monitoring system.
	4b. Multiple benefits, other impacts and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FORIG has been engaged to develop modalities for benefits sharing. Keenly following international discussions on co-benefits.
5. Safeguards	1b. Information Sharing and Dialogue	Refer to the relevant sub-components above.
	1c. Consultation and Participation Process	
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	
	4b. Multiple benefits, other impacts and governance	

- Output level

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, for all the components	
			1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach
2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation			2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance
			2b. REDD+ Strategy Options
			2c. Implementation Framework
			2d. Social and Environmental Impacts
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels			
4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards			4a. National Forest Monitoring System
			4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

Level of implementation of R-PP¹ as a whole:

The R-PP implementation phase involves three steps as shown in figure 2 below:

¹ Please note that you will be able to assess progress on the implementation of R-PP-P components and sub-components in table included in the following pages.

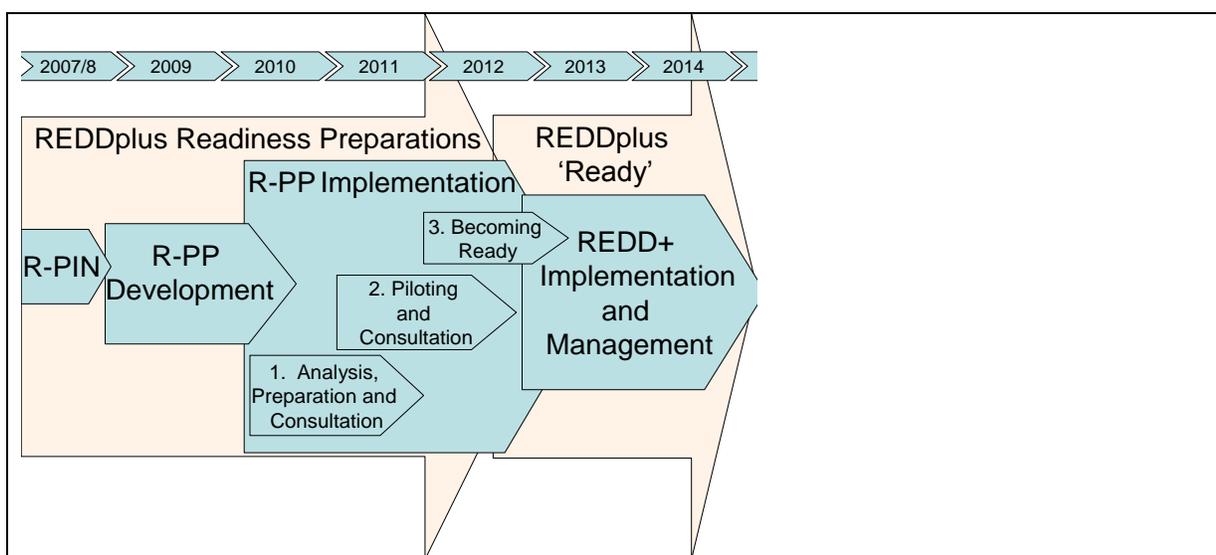


Figure 2: Phasing of Ghana's Progress towards being ready for REDD+

The level of implementation of the proposed activities for each step of the R-PP implementation phase are outlined below:

Step 1: Analysis, Preparation and Consultation

ACTIVITIES	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
1. Detailed analysis of REDD+ policy, legal and technical requirements	A policy, legislation and governance sub-working group of the NRWG has been constituted for this activity. Recommendations from this working group and the REDD+ secretariat have been incorporated in the revised forest and wildlife policy and the National Climate Change Policy to make them consistent with the objectives of the REDD+ scheme.
2. Setting of the Reference Emissions Level	A consulting firm has been engaged to develop REL/ RL and MRV. The consulting firm should commence work by the end of October, 2013
3. Confirmation of institutional roles, responsibilities and oversight for REDD+	Implementation structures for the REDD+ readiness process have been established. The Climate Change Unit of the Forestry Commission serves as the national REDD+ Secretariat. A National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG) has also been constituted. The NRWG has 6 sub-working groups which assist in the implementation of the key thematic areas of the REDD+ scheme.
4. Establishment of the entity responsible for MRV	The MRV, RL and REL construction are being treated jointly as indicated above. The FPP and GIZ also provided support for the construction of the MRV framework.
5. Selection of potential pilots/ demonstration activities	Seven (7) pilot REDD+ projects have been selected.
6. Continued consultation,	A draft REDD+ communication strategy has been presented by

information sharing and awareness raising on REDD+ strategy, legislative and institutional proposals	the communication specialist engaged for the project. A national validation workshop will be undertaken on the draft strategy. There is on-going sensitisation of frontline staff on the Forestry Commission. The REDD+ web page of the FC website is also regularly updated
7. Finalisation of REDD+ strategy (to progress towards REDD+ readiness)	14 candidate strategies have been identified. Stakeholder assessments and deliberations of the strategies are underway.

Step 2: Piloting and Testing

ACTIVITIES	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
1. Initial capacity building for pilots	Three (3) workshops have been organized to build the capacity of REDD+ proponents, traditional authorities, land owners and local communities.
2. Establishment of pilots/ demonstration activities	SECO is supporting analytical studies on feasibility of off-reserve REDD+ pilot sites.
3. Establishment of carbon accounting registry	The REDD+ secretariat and the Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC) have drafted a pathway for the development of a National Carbon registry.
4. Testing of carbon measurement, accounting and MRV procedures	Consultancy for MRV has been awarded.
5. Consultation around demonstrations and pilots	Consultative workshops have been undertaken at the pilot sites for local communities, traditional authorities, land owners and the pilot proponents.
6. Consultation on potential REDDplus policies, decisions and actions	Workshops, outreach programmes and meetings have been held with key stakeholders.
7. Training Needs Analysis for full REDDplus implementation	The Secretariat is actively engaged with development partners to assist in institutional strengthening and capacity building sessions.

Step 3: Becoming Ready

The activities implemented in Steps 1 and 2 are contributing to Ghana's strategy to become ready for full REDD+ implementation.

Level of 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 Achievement²:</u>	<u>Tracking³:</u>
<p>1. National Readiness Management arrangements and Stakeholder dialogue, consultations, participation and awareness raising</p> <p>2. Development of the national REDD+ strategy and demonstration(pilots) activities on the ground</p> <p>3. Establishment of reference emission levels and Reference levels (Reference scenario)</p> <p>4. Development of transparent and robust national forest monitoring systems(e.g. MRV)</p> <p>5. Establishment of Social and Environmental Safeguards(e.g. SESA)</p>	<p>The REDD+ Secretariat has been actively carrying out Consultations, raising awareness of stakeholders. There is also coordination with related initiatives such as the Forest Preservation Program (FPP) and the Forest Investment Program (FIP).</p> <p>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. Also, Seven (7) REDD+ Pilot projects have been selected for on the ground implementation.</p> <p>Consulting firms have been engaged for construction of Ghana's REL/ RL and MRV.</p> <p>Consulting firm has been engaged for SESA.</p>	<p><u>Tracking³:</u></p> <p><i>Please select your light rating:</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Significant progress</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Progressing well, further development required</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Further development required</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Not yet demonstrating progress</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Non Applicable</p> <p><i>Please explain why:</i></p> <p>Although several activities have been undertaken, significant delays in the release of funds have stalled other key activities.</p>

² 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+

³ 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

<p>6. Development of benefit sharing and Conflict resolution mechanisms(e.g. GRFM)</p>	<p>Consulting firm has been engaged for developing a benefit sharing and conflict resolution mechanism.</p>	
<p>7. Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation framework to keep track of the national REDD+ Readiness process</p>	<p>The scope for the terms of reference for the M and E framework has been developed. The terms of reference will be developed soon.</p>	

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 30th each year

	Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking ⁴ (Please select your light rating)
		Planned milestones	Cumulative Progress Towards Milestones	Expected Annual target 2013	Achievements of the Annual target 2013	
R-PP Component 1 – Readiness Organization and Consultation	Sub-Component 1a – National REDD+ Management Arrangements <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> <i>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>	Establishment of a National REDD+ Working Group.	- 1 national multi-stakeholder working group established - 6 sub-working groups established	4 quarterly meetings to assess progress	1 quarterly meeting held	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Significant progress <input type="radio"/> Progressing well, further development required <input type="radio"/> Further development required <input type="radio"/> Not yet demonstrating progress <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non Applicable Please explain why:

⁴ 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	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking ⁴ (Please select your light rating)
	Planned milestones	Cumulative Progress Towards Milestones	Expected Annual target 2013	Achievements of the Annual target 2013	
Sub-Component 1b – Consultation, Participation, and Outreach <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> <u>Assessment Criteria:</u> (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	Enhanced Stakeholder dialogue, Consultations, Participation and awareness raising	Draft Communication Strategy prepared	A stakeholder validation workshop organized	Draft communication strategy to be presented to the project implementation committee	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Significant progress <input type="radio"/>  Progressing well, further development required <input type="radio"/>  Further development required <input type="radio"/>  Not yet demonstrating progress <input checked="" type="radio"/>  Non Applicable <i>And explain why:</i> Delayed release of project funds.

	Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking ⁴ (Please select your light rating)
		Planned milestones	Cumulative Progress Towards Milestones	Expected Annual target 2013	Achievements of the Annual target 2013	
R-PP Component 2 – REDD+ Strategy Preparation	<p>Subcomponent 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance</p> <p><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></p> <p><u>Assessment Criteria:</u> (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</p>	<p>Formulation of a revised Forest and Wildlife Policy; Tree Tenure legislative framework and LULUCF map.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Forest and Wildlife Policy published. National LULUCF map developed. Consultations on land and tree tenure legislative framework on-going. 	<p>Revised Forest and Wildlife Policy published, draft tree tenure report produced and LULUCF map produced.</p>	<p>All the targets have been achieved.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Significant progress</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Progressing well, further development required</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Further development required</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Not yet demonstrating progress</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Non Applicable</p> <p><i>And explain why:</i></p>

Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking ⁴ (Please select your light rating)
	Planned milestones	Cumulative Progress Towards Milestones	Expected Annual target 2013	Achievements of the Annual target 2013	
Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options <i>Purpose: Develop a set of policies and programs for addressing the drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation</i> <i>Assessment Criteria: (i) selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options; (ii) feasibility assessment; (iii) implications for strategy options on existing sectoral policies</i>	Development of a national REDD+ strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consulting firm has been identified to commence work on the national strategic options. - Consultancy contract awarded for conflict resolution mechanism - Studies have been undertaken on the benefit sharing mechanism for Ghana's REDD+ 	Production of draft report on conflict resolution mechanism, draft study report on benefit sharing.	Study reports on conflict resolution and benefit sharing produced.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Significant progress <input type="radio"/> Progressing well, further development required <input type="radio"/> Further development required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not yet demonstrating progress <input type="radio"/> Non Applicable <i>And explain why: Slow and bureaucratic procurement process.</i>
Subcomponent 2c: Implementation Framework <i>Purpose: Set out credible and transparent institutional, economic, legal and governance arrangements necessary to implement REDD+ strategy options</i> <i>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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a National REDD+ Benefit sharing mechanism. • Formulation of a REDD+ Registry. 	An institution has been identified to develop a benefit sharing mechanism for REDD+ A roadmap on formulation of a REDD+ Registry has been produced.	Draft study report on benefit sharing produced.	IUCN study report on benefit sharing produced.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Significant progress <input type="radio"/> Progressing well, further development required <input type="radio"/> Further development required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not yet demonstrating progress <input type="radio"/> Non Applicable <i>And explain why: Slow and bureaucratic procurement process.</i>

	Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking ⁴ (Please select your light rating)
		Planned milestones	Cumulative Progress Towards Milestones	Expected Annual target 2013	Achievements of the Annual target 2013	
	<p>Subcomponent 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts</p> <p><i>Purpose: Ensure compliance with the Common Approach and prepare a country specific Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)</i></p> <p><i>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></p>	Development of a Comprehensive environmental and social safeguards (SESA) and ESMF to address impacts from adopting strategic options	A consulting firm has been identified to undertake the SESA work.	safeguards developed to address social and environmental impacts	Contract developed for consultancy work.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Significant progress <input type="radio"/> Progressing well, further development required <input type="radio"/> Further development required <input type="radio"/> Not yet demonstrating progress <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non Applicable <p><i>And explain why: Slow and bureaucratic procurement process</i></p>
	<p>R-PP Component 3 - Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels</p> <p><i>Purpose: Development of the general approach to establish a REL/RL</i></p> <p><i>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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a national LULUCF and land cover maps Improvement of national greenhouse gas inventory for LULUCF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FPP has generated wall to wall LULUCF maps for Ghana for 3 epochs: i.e. 1990, 2000 and 2010 Improved GHG LULUCF data for 2012 	National LULUCF map (wall to wall) developed	Up to date greenhouse gas inventory generated.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Significant progress <input type="radio"/> Progressing well, further development required <input type="radio"/> Further development required <input type="radio"/> Not yet demonstrating progress <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non Applicable <p><i>And explain why:</i></p>

	Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking ⁴ (Please select your light rating)
		Planned milestones	Cumulative Progress Towards Milestones	Expected Annual target 2013	Achievements of the Annual target 2013	
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	<p>Subcomponent 4a: 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>Assessment Criteria: (i) documentation of monitoring approach; (ii) demonstration of early implementation; (iii) institutional arrangements and capacities- Forests</i></p>	Development of a national MRV system for REDD+	Consulting firm selected.	National MRV system established	Contract document developed	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Significant progress <input type="radio"/> Progressing well, further development required <input type="radio"/> Further development required <input type="radio"/> Not yet demonstrating progress <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non Applicable <p><i>And explain why: Slow and bureaucratic procurement process</i></p>
	<p>Subcomponent 4b: 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>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>	Establishment of a national Safeguards Information System (SIS)	Consulting firm selected for SESA (SESA output will feed into SIS)	SESA/ ESMF/ SIS framework developed.	Contract document developed.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Significant progress <input type="radio"/> Progressing well, further development required <input type="radio"/> Further development required <input type="radio"/> Not yet demonstrating progress <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non Applicable <p><i>And explain why: Slow and bureaucratic procurement process.</i></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	32%	<p><i>Please select your light rating:</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Up to 10% variance with plans</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Between 10 and 25% variance</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Between 25 and 40 % variance</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> More than 40 % variance</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Non Applicable</p>

Disbursement rate of Total R-PP Budget in percentage (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.d.):		
	Rate	Tracking
R-PP Budget - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements	n.a. (No additional funding other than FCPF grant)	<p><i>Please select your light rating:</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Up to 10% variance with plans</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Between 10 and 25% variance</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Between 25 and 40 % variance</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> More than 40 % variance</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Non Applicable</p>

3.2.2. Key elements of performance-based payment systems for emission reductions generated from REDD+ activities

- Outcome level

As a synthesis of the following output level assessments, please briefly specify:	
<p>Are carbon accounting, programmatic elements and pricing operating as planned in your pilot, if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 2.A.)</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/>  Overall yes, but with some discrepancies <input type="radio"/>  Overall no, but with some positive signs <input type="radio"/>  No <input checked="" type="radio"/>  Non Applicable </p> <p><u>Please describe progress made:</u></p>
<p>Is the benefit sharing scheme being implemented according to plans within your pilot, if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 2.B.)</p>	<p> <input type="radio"/>  Yes <input type="radio"/>  Overall yes, but with some discrepancies <input checked="" type="radio"/>  Overall no, but with some positive signs <input type="radio"/>  No <input type="radio"/>  Non Applicable </p> <p><u>Please describe progress made:</u> Benefit sharing mechanism being developed through consultancy and stakeholder consultations.</p>
<p>Percentage and/or amount of monetary benefits shared with beneficiaries in approved pilot, if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 2.C.)</p>	<p> <input type="radio"/>  Percentage and/or amount targets to be defined <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input checked="" type="radio"/>  Non Applicable </p>

- Output level

Has your country submitted early ideas or ER-Program to the CF and/or others (FCPF M&E Framework 2.3.a):	
No	<u>Please briefly describe the content of these early ideas or ER-Program:</u>

Has your country signed an ERPA (FCPF M&E Framework 2.4.b):	
No:	<u>Please briefly describe the content of this ERPA:</u>

Amount and date of disbursements for ER Program according to plans, if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework 2.5.): n/a	
<u>Date:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u> n/a
<u>Date:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>
<u>Date:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>

3.2.3. Engagement of stakeholders to sustain or enhance livelihoods of local communities and to conserve biodiversity within the approach to REDD +

- Outcome level

As a synthesis of the following output level assessments, please describe indicators related to biodiversity conservation and forest community livelihood development included in the ER Program, if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 3.A.):	
<u>Amount:</u>	<u>Please describe how these funds target biodiversity and forest community livelihood development:</u> n/a

Please provide relevant examples on the inherent social and biodiversity benefits of REDD+, if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 3.B.):	
<u>Examples of inherent social and biodiversity benefits of REDD+:</u>	
<p>The REDD+ implementation process has contributed to the enhancement of the knowledge of key stakeholders on the importance of sustainable forest management. The extensive stakeholder consultations and information sharing which have been undertaken so far have also resulted in the creation of a favourable environment for enhanced forest management and good governance.</p> <p>Additionally, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the IUCN, is promoting a pro-poor approach to REDD+ implementation in Ghana for improving livelihoods in forest communities. Consequently, women, forest fringe communities and vulnerable groups have been engaged as key stakeholders in REDD+ readiness activities.</p> <p>The process of developing a SESA framework for the REDD+ scheme is transformative and should lead to the minimisation of negative social impacts in the implementation of the REDD+ scheme and other sustainable forest management interventions in the country.</p>	

Does your country R-Package (within the national REDD+ strategies and the monitoring systems) and/or ER Program include activities aiming at maintaining or enhancing livelihoods of local communities (FCPF M&E Framework 3.2.b.):	
Yes	<p><u>Please describe these activities aiming at maintaining or enhancing livelihoods of local communities:</u></p> <p>Climate smart cocoa production interventions aims to enhance sustainable livelihoods in areas targeted for Ghana's emission reduction programme which is being developed. This is also a key intervention in Ghana's draft REDD+ strategy.</p>

Does your country R-Package (within the national REDD+ strategies and the monitoring systems) and/or ER Program include activities aiming at conserving biodiversity (FCPF M&E Framework 3.2.c.):	
Yes	<p><u>Please describe these activities aiming at conserving biodiversity:</u></p> <p>The seven pilot projects place emphasis on biodiversity conservation particularly those targeting globally significant biodiversity areas.</p>

Does your country R-Package and/or ER Program include SESA, an operational Grievance Mechanisms, and an ESMF that captures SESA results (FCPF M&E Framework 3.2.d.):	
Yes	<p><i>If yes, please select your light rating:</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Degree of advancement or implementation targets to be defined</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Non Applicable</p> <p><u>Please describe the measures implemented:</u> Contract has been developed for SESA consultancy. It is behind schedule because of a slow and bureaucratic procurement process.</p>

3.2.4. Knowledge sharing

Has your country developed and published REDD+ knowledge products with FCPF support:	
Yes	<p><u>Please provide the list of published REDD+ knowledge products, if any during reporting period:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ fact sheet for Ghana • REDD+ in Ghana –A simplified explanatory leaflet on Ghana's REDD+

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ Bumper stickers
--	---

How many people have been reached by these knowledge products, if any:
Overall number by product: 4,000 for the fact sheets, 4,000 for the leaflet and 2,000 for the stickers
of Men: 6,000
of Women: 4,000

Have some experts of your country participated in any South-south learning activities? If yes, how many (men and women)?		
<u>Yes</u>	<u>List the South-South learning activities:</u>	
	-	
	- Jurisdictional Nested REDD+ -Brazil	<u># of men:</u> 1
	-	<u># of women:</u>

4. ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RISKS

The slow and bureaucratic procurement process as well as the delayed release of funds for the period under review have stalled some key activities. The Management of the Forestry Commission is trying to streamline the process of internal disbursement of funds.

The capacity on REDD+ within the Forestry Commission and other important stakeholder institutions is generally low despite the Secretariat's efforts to mainstream REDD+.

5. MAIN LESSONS LEARNED

Ghana's REDD+ R-PP implementation has proceeded through a mechanism of extensive stakeholder deliberations and consultations. This process has been immensely beneficial since it has provided the opportunity for various stakeholders to share their expertise and experience on the process. The active involvement of local communities at every stage of the project development cycle, from conceptualization to implementation, is very important to ensure the successful implementation of REDD+ process.

Another important lesson learned has been the need to build strong coordination across various sectors and institutions whose functions are very relevant for successful REDD+ implementation. For example, the REDD+ secretariat is seeking to develop an M & E framework which could be utilised for all related forest management interventions in the country including the VPA and FIP. Additionally, the secretariat has also identified the Ministry of Agriculture as a key partner in future REDD+ strategies particularly those that seeks to enhance the carbon stocks of cocoa farms.

Effective coordination with relevant agencies would reduce duplication of efforts and minimise unnecessary dissipation of resources by taking advantage of potential synergies. The REDD+ secretariat is therefore exploring the possibility of bringing on board the Ghana National Development Planning Commission to the NRWG to strengthen coordination and coherence amongst the key partners of the

REDD+ process. Additionally, there is the need to use the same platform for all the forest sector initiatives to engage effectively with stakeholders for addressing governance issues.

The Secretariat has also come to the realisation that although information delivered to the key stakeholders should be accurate, it should however not lead to the raising of unreasonably high expectations on the REDD+ scheme which could be detrimental for the future implementation of a national REDD+ mechanism. The REDD+ Secretariat has consequently been affirming the various co-benefits associated with REDD+ implementation during stakeholder engagements. The rationale for this approach is to ensure that support for the scheme from the various stakeholders are not primarily premised on the projected financial benefits that the REDD+ scheme may deliver but also on the ecological and social benefits that could be realised from the implementation of the scheme.