



# Readiness Package (R-Package) for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Madagascar

Version 3.1

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**Abbreviations (Some Acronyms have been left in their French version in order to reflect the relevant local/national reference)**

BNC CC	National Coordination Bureau for Climate Change
BNC REDD+	National Coordination Bureau for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
BRC REDD+	Regional Coordination Bureau for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
CAZ	Corridor Ankeniheny – Zahamena
CI	Conservation International
CIME	Interministerial Commission on the Environment
COFIL	Steering Committee
CTE	Technical and Environmental Committee
CTD	Decentralized Local Authorities
DD	Deforestation and Forest Degradation
DGF	Directorate of Forest Management
DREEF	Regional Department of the Environment, Ecology and Forests
DVRF	Directorate for the Valorization of Forest Resources
ER-PIN	Emission Reductions Program Idea Note
ERP	Emission Reduction Program
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FGRM	Feedback Grievance and Redress Mechanism
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Level
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GMC	Carbon Methodology Group
GT REL	Technical Group on Reference Emission Level (Within the GMC)
GTS	Safeguards Technical Group
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MECIE	Rendering Investment Compatible with the Environment
MEEF	Ministry of the Environment, Ecology and Forests
MNP	Madagascar National Parks
MRV	Monitoring, reporting and verification
MTR	Mid-term progress report on the progress regarding the national readiness of Madagascar for REDD+
NDP	National Development Plan
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ONE	National Environment Office
PADAP	Madagascar Sustainable Landscape Management Project
PAP	People affected by the project
PAT	Technical Support Staff
PERR-FH	Eco Regional REDD Project of Eastern Humid Forests
PF	Process Framework
PFN	National REDD+ Platform
PFR	Regional REDD+ Platform
POLFOR	Forest Policy
REDD+	Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation including Conservation, Sustainable Forest Management and Improvement of Forest Carbon Stocks

REDD+ CSO	Civil Society Organization for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SAVA	Sambava, Andapa, Vohémar, Ambilobe Region
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIS	Safeguards Information System
SLC	Local Consultation Body
SN REDD+	REDD+ National Strategy
STD	Deconcentrated Technical Services
TAP	Technical Advisory Panel
TFP	Technical and Financial Partners
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UN REDD	United Nations REDD Program
VOI	Vondron'Olona Ifotony (Local grass-roots Communities)
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### **Madagascar is a poor country with invaluable natural wealth**

Madagascar is in the Indian Ocean, east of the mainland of Africa. It is an island with natural forest spanning along approximately 9.2 million hectares, and is one of the ten hotspots of the world's biological diversity, with a unique natural heritage and a great diversity of ecosystems harboring a significant biological richness with a high rate of endemic wildlife. It is home to 1/20th of the world's known biodiversity. At the same time, the country ranks 158 out of 188 countries economically with a Human Development Index of 0.512 in 2015 ([PNUD, 2016](#)). With a population of about 23 million, more than two-thirds of the population live in rural areas with high poverty rates and livelihoods dependent on forests and natural resources. This situation poses a serious threat to the forest and the services it provides due to the practice of burning - 'tavy' - the environmentally destructive and illicit exploitation of forest resources, and the destruction of natural habitats in favor of other economic activities. Real threats also exist due to disruption caused by climate change, fires, land-use change and infrastructure development. Additional to all of the above is the problem of poor governance accentuated by widespread corruption and cyclical political crises.

However, Madagascar's natural resources also consistently contribute to the country's overall wealth. These have the potential to generate substantial and tangible economic benefits, but also to contribute more broadly to poverty reduction and economic development through environmental services provided by forests.

In order to preserve these forests, the Ministry in charge of forests, in collaboration with technical and financial partners, has developed a system to sustain and strengthen the conservation of its natural resources. The REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) mechanism started in 2001 in the eastern wet forest eco-region, with five pilot projects. This mechanism is not only a funding source for the sustainable management of forest resources, but also a framework for the integrated management of forest and agricultural species.

### **Strong political will to combat deforestation and conserve these resources with a participatory approach**

Having recognized these threats, the Malagasy government has demonstrated its commitment to address deforestation and forest degradation by adopting a policy to protect these resources and establish systems to create protected areas, while involving the various stakeholders in their sustainable management. In particular, local grassroots communities are involved through the implementation of the Natural Resource Management Transfer process. In addition, the surface of protected areas has almost tripled over the past fifteen years thanks to the application of local and delegated management.

It should be noted that within the framework of this participatory approach, through their technical and financial support, civil society, NGOs working in the field of forest conservation in Madagascar, and donors were important partners in the progress of this process over the past two decades.

This political will has been reinforced by the new Objective 5 Forest Policy, which is already finalized. Its 2016-2030 vision is the following: *"All stakeholders are prepared and work together to ensure that the Malagasy forest resource is protected and valued in a sustainable, rational and responsible way, in order to make it one of the pillars of the socio-economic development of Madagascar"*.

The REDD+ initiative is also supported by the National Development Plan (2015-2019), thus promoting the preservation of the environment and the green economy in order to safeguard the environment and natural resources for the country's sustainable development.

It should be noted that a Declaration of Commitment between the Ministry of the Environment, Ecology, Sea and Forest, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons was signed on September 11, 2015 with the submission of the Emission Reduction Program (ERP) to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). This declaration further affirms the support and willingness of the country to become more involved in the REDD+ process. In addition, a National Emission Reduction Program with a landscape approach (watershed), called PADAP, targeting both intact forests and secondary formations (forests resulting from degradation and/or vegetation resulting from natural regeneration), has already been signed.

## REDD+ Madagascar preparation process

Since 2000, Madagascar has endorsed a REDD+ policy that will allow it to better prepare itself for REDD+ in the short and medium term. It involves developing REDD+ pilot projects on a local scale with conservation organizations, combining reduction of carbon emissions from deforestation, conservation of biodiversity and improvement of the welfare of the local population. Sales of carbon credits generated by these projects have already been achieved.

In preparing for REDD+ nationally, Madagascar presented its REDD+ Readiness Plan ([R-PP](#)) to the FCPF Participants Committee in July 2014. The document was approved, allowing the country to benefit from a US \$ 3.8 million grant for REDD+ readiness, which was signed in May 2015 with the World Bank. The mid-term progress report regarding the national progress of Madagascar to implement REDD+ ([MTR](#)) received a favorable opinion from the FCPF Participants Committee in September 2016. As a result, Madagascar has benefited from an additional US \$ 5 million from the FCPF Readiness fund, enabling it to finalize the national REDD+ strategy by putting in place all the necessary instruments for the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy. The total funding committed for REDD+ readiness is USD 10.6 million (see Annex 1).

During preparation for REDD+, in line and in coherence with the REDD+ National Strategy, Madagascar is in the process of developing an emission reduction program (ERP) for submission to the FCPF Carbon Fund. For greater synergy with other existing or ongoing programs, Madagascar has chosen the areas located in the eastern escarpment as the ERP area of implementation. This ensemble of Malagasy landscapes constitutes a physical barrier to the Indian Ocean and thus obtains the majority of rain received by the island during the rainy periods. The program's area of implementation is very important in terms of biodiversity, as well as for the capture and regulation of water that is essential for agriculture and other economic activities because it represents the last bastion of the rain forest.

## Preparing the R-Package

This R-Package document reflects Madagascar's progress in preparing for REDD+ from 2008 onwards and outlines the achievements by sub-component, including progress on the development of the necessary tools and elements (see Figure 1) and stakeholder feedback on strengths and weaknesses as well as measures to be taken to strengthen readiness.

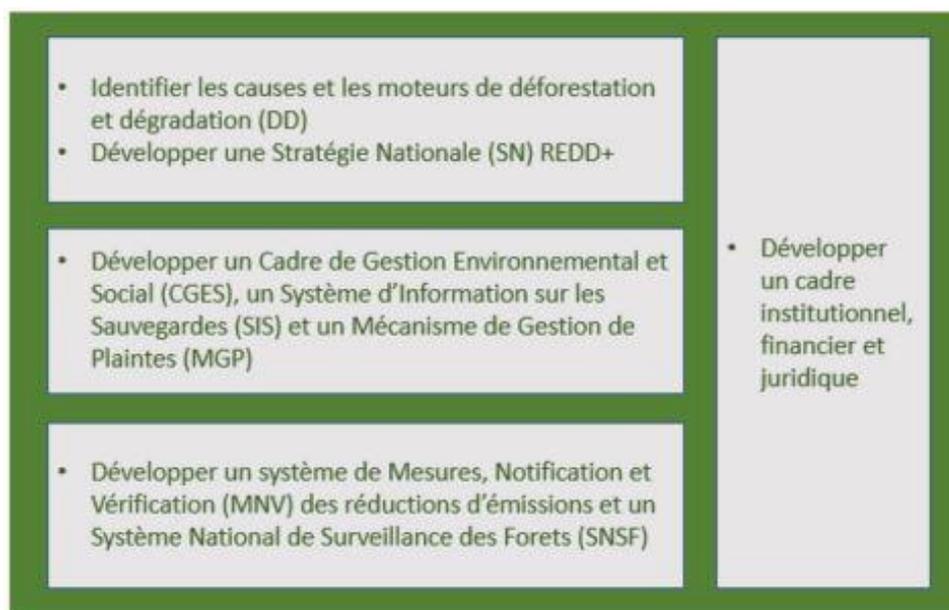


Figure 1 Elements to prepare for REDD+

The R-Package demonstrates, among other things, efforts to strengthen the preparation process, for example in response to recommendations from the [MTR](#): (i) to strengthen the effective participation of civil society organizations, women and local communities in the REDD+ process; and (ii) encourage the coordination of financial instruments relevant to the REDD+ process.

A Draft 1.0 of the R-Package was prepared by the REDD+ National Coordination Bureau in April 2017 to provide a summary of progress of the REDD + readiness process by component (Chapter 3) to stakeholders participating in the process of self-assessment for REDD+ readiness in Madagascar. A transparent and inclusive process was adopted to conduct this participatory review using the 34 criteria of [the FCPF's REDD+ Readiness Assessment Framework](#). Three stakeholder workshops in the capital and ten workshops in five regions of the country were held in May and June 2017, the content of which is presented in Chapter 4.

A Version 2.0 of the R-Package incorporated a draft of the consolidated results of the 13 consultation workshops and this Version 3.0 presents the results of the participatory review finalized and validated by the participants of a national workshop held on June 21-23 (Chapter 5). This final Version 3.0 of the R-Package is submitted to the FCPF for evaluation by the FCPF Participants Committee with the support of a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP).

## 2. STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REDD+ IN MADAGASCAR

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### 2.1 The Process of Creating the Vision

The REDD+ process presents a great opportunity to design a public policy framework for emissions reduction where all stakeholders across sectors work together to (i) define challenges related to deforestation and forest degradation; (ii) define, evaluate and improve viable policy options; and (iii) reflect on policy instruments (legal, technological, economic, cultural). It will be vital to put in place a monitoring and evaluation system to confirm that the challenges originally identified are addressed. It is within this framework that the creation of a national REDD+ vision becomes a reality thanks to the REDD+ readiness process, taking into account the results of the analytical work, the databases, the existing sectoral objectives and plans and the National Development Plan ([NDP](#)) which states that both adaptation and mitigation of climate change is part of the government's efforts to combat climate change.

The creation of the national REDD+ vision includes the active participation of all relevant stakeholders through the various consultations at the local, regional and national level according to the studies carried out so far and the creation of a National REDD+ Platform that includes civil society and the private sector.

The process also takes into account the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution ([INDC](#)) of Madagascar for the post-2020 Paris Climate Agreement, which states that “by 2030 Madagascar aims to reduce its GHG emissions in the order of 30 MtCO<sub>2</sub>, i.e. 14% compared to the BAU scenario, projections based on the GHG inventory from 2000 to 2010. In addition to this reduction is the increase in removals from the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector, which are in the order of 61 MtCO<sub>2</sub> by 2030. This represents an increase in Madagascar's sinks capacity by 32% compared to the BAU scenario. These objectives remain conditional on the financial aid that will be received from global partners (conditional contributions).”

### 2.2 National vision and ambition

In order to promote sustainable development that is respectful of the environment and is concerned with the challenges of climate change, Madagascar, with the support of its partners, is undergoing a development phase, which includes the fight against deforestation and forest degradation and the pursuit, or even the acceleration, of increased agricultural production. This approach is developed through a strategy to improve the governance of natural resources, the socio-economic and cultural development of the forest sector, while ensuring that the needs of riverside communities are met and that ecosystem integrity is maintained, therefore promoting efficient forest land-use planning, and supporting the sectors concerned with deforestation and forest degradation. Madagascar's INDC (Cf. [INDC](#)) is based on the contributions of efforts to reduce GHGs included in sectoral strategic development plans with the support of the technical and financial partners.

An ambitious vision is needed to achieve the objectives of REDD+ in Madagascar, exemplified by a sample of the draft National Strategy:

*By 2030, the rate of deforestation will be considerably reduced compared to the baseline, which will contribute to reducing the country's emissions to 15% per year. In addition, forest coverage of the national territory will be increased from 15% to 17% through reforestation and restoration of degraded forests so that its richness in biodiversity will be maintained and the social capital of communities strengthened for their economic development and overall sustainable rural development.*

This vision is the baseline for the development of the national REDD+ strategy that responds to the needs of the Malagasy population and contributes to the ongoing financing of sustainable forest management. Madagascar is committed to ensuring that the REDD+ mechanism contributes to the improvement of the living conditions of vulnerable populations (farmers, young people, women).

### 3. REDD+ PREPARATION PROCESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultation

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

###### Criterion 1: Accountability and transparency

The structures described in the institutional framework for REDD+ readiness are established and operational at the national level and in the eastern Madagascar rain forest region of the ERP (Figure 2). The aim of the institutional framework is to involve all stakeholders in a transparent manner from the design stage through to the future implementation of the national REDD+ strategy.

The REDD+ National Coordination Bureau (BNC REDD+) was created by [Ministerial Decree No. 21718/15-MEEMF](#) in February 2014 within the Ministry of the Environment, Ecology and Forests (MEEF) to ensure the ownership and coordination of the REDD+ process at a national level. BNC REDD+'s main mission is to implement the REDD+ Readiness Plan and finalize planning for the Emission Reduction Program (ERP) in the eastern forest landscape. BNC REDD+ ensures the daily technical operations of the REDD+ process, namely: (i) implementation and monitoring of the annual work plan and budget related to REDD+; (ii) technical and administrative support to the National REDD+ Platform and Regional REDD+ Platforms; (iii) commissioning, monitoring and evaluation of ongoing studies for REDD+ preparation conducted by service providers. In addition, the BNC REDD+ ensures that all stakeholders are consulted and that all information is available and accessible in accordance with the principle of transparency.

Two permanent organizations have been established to support strategic direction and technical consultations for the overall process in collaboration with the BNC REDD+, the REDD+ National Platform and the thematic groups (safeguards - GTS - and carbon methodology – GMC). A Civil Society Organization (REDD+ CSO) has been created to support consultations for REDD+.

Various organizations are being established at the regional level to perform the same functions as those at the national level, namely REDD+ Regional Platforms, which are an expansion of existing Forestry Commissions; regional REDD+ CSO; and the REDD+ Regional Coordination Bureau (BRC REDD+ or BRRC), which will soon be established within the Regional Department for the Environment, Ecology and Forests (DREEF). So far, REDD+ Regional Platforms and regional CSO REDD+ are functioning in the five regions of the PRE, although the CSO REDD+ are not yet formally created. A direct link will connect the National Platform and the Regional Platform thus facilitating the flow of exchange of experiences and information.

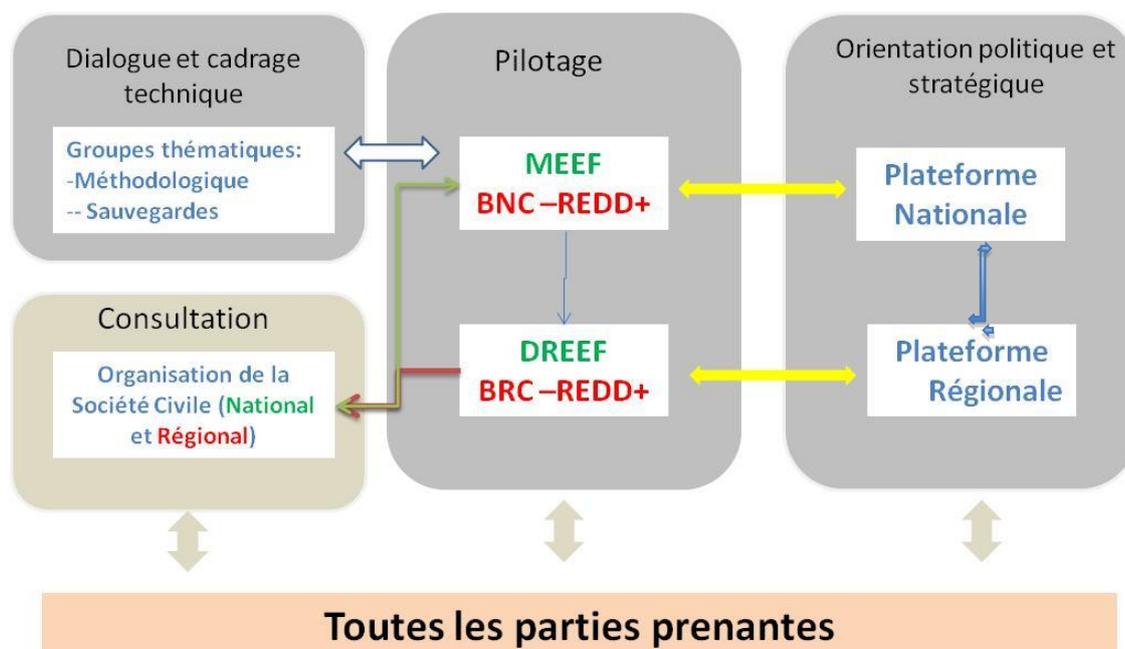


Figure 2: Institutional framework for the REDD+ readiness management

Organizations for the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy are also being established. A Steering Committee (COFIL), bringing together the Secretaries-General of the relevant Ministries chaired by the SG of the Government, will be set up for the readiness and implementation of REDD+. Local organizations, including Vondron'Olona Ifotony (VOI - grass-roots communities), certain NGOs and CSOs, representatives of the Deconcentrated Technical Services (STD), municipalities, authorities and private operators exist at the grass-roots level. A new organization was created by Decree of the Ministry in charge of Decentralization, named the Local Consultation Organization (SLC), which is located at the municipal or cross-municipal level. This organization will prioritize all projects at the grassroots level. A diagram of the future institutional framework for the implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy (REDD+ NS) is presented below in Component 2c.

*Actions plan<sup>1</sup> :*

- Ensure the functioning and strengthening of capacity of REDD+ institutions: BNCR, PFN, BRCR, PFR, REDD+ CSO (national and 5 ERP eastern regions as well as 4 western regions)
- Support the establishment of REDD+ CSO, BRCR and COFIL
- Establish a network for ongoing exchange between the national and regional CSOs

### **Criterion 2: Operating mandate and budget**

BNC REDD+ has a clear institutional mandate, with responsibilities outlined in Sub-component 1a above, to coordinate and manage the preparation phase for REDD+. BNC REDD+ received a \$ 8.8 million from the FCPF, including \$ 5 million in additional funds in December 2016 to implement the REDD+ Readiness Plan through to the end of 2018. Generally, the funds are intended to carry out activities for the preparation of the national strategy, such as necessary investments, preliminary studies, consultations at all levels, and the operations and capacity building of the various organizations put in place as part of the REDD+ readiness process. The budget for the use of these funds in the preparation phase is sufficient for the activities included in the action plan for each sub-component in this document.

The mandates of organizations that will manage REDD+ implementation have largely been clarified (see Sub-component 2c below) and the budget requirements and funding needs for future implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy (NS) are being developed. As part of this process the budget has been defined for implementation of the ERP and initial funding has been identified to start implementation (see ERPD).

*Action plan:*

- Put the budget and the work plan for the preparatory phase on the website
- Finalize the design and disseminate the institutional arrangements for the implementation of REDD+ to all stakeholders
- Develop a guide clarifying the roles of all entities involved according to the agreed institutional arrangements

### **Criterion 3: Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration**

The REDD+ National Platform (REDD+ PFN) is an advisory body for guidance and follow up and a key partner for REDD+ readiness. It is a multi-sector organization created by [Ministerial Decree no. 14569/2016](#) and is made up of 31 members from ministries in sectors related to deforestation and forest degradation, from technical and financial partners and from NGOs working in environment and forest conservation, from academics and researchers as well as from civil society and grassroots communities (represented by the VOIs). The REDD+ National Platform plays an important role to help capitalize on available resources and to participate in cross-sectoral policy dialogue to ensure that the REDD+ strategy is coherent and integrates sectoral objectives related to the challenges of deforestation and forest degradation. For example, agriculture is a key driver and part of the solution (see ERPD and section below on drivers), and links with agriculture sector and policies comprise a key part of REDD+ efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> Activities provided in the action plan for each criterion will be undertaken with additional FCPF funding for REDD+ readiness

From its creation in July 2016, the REDD+ National Platform has met five times (see meeting minutes<sup>2</sup>) in order to:

- define the roles and responsibilities, and internal regulations of the National Platform;
- build members' capacity on REDD+ mechanisms, particularly for some members not yet sufficiently knowledgeable about REDD+, for example participating in the validation of analytical results on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
- reflect on the institutional framework for the implementation of REDD+;
- reflect on other tools in the REDD+ implementation framework (e.g. MRV/NFMS, FGRM, SIS - see Figure 1)
- reflect on the benefit-sharing mechanism of REDD+.

The PFN has been a key partner, for example, in helping BNCR to design institutional arrangements for REDD+ implementation that will be practical and that are likely to get political buy-in from key stakeholders at different levels to ensure effective incentives for action to reduce deforestation at the local level building on existing platforms for multi-sectoral collaboration at local and regional levels.

REDD+ Regional Platforms (PFR) will ensure the roles of the REDD+ National Platform at the regional level. The Regional Platforms are established to revitalize the forestry commissions in such a way that their members have been complemented by other REDD+ stakeholders. Their responsibilities will take into account the REDD+ dimension. The Regional Platforms in the five ERP regions (ie SAVA, Atsinanana, Analanjorofo, Alaotra-Mangoro, and Sofia) have been in place since November 2016 and during the first quarter of 2017 through regional workshops organized by DREEFs and supported by BNC REDD+ with the participation of all stakeholders including members of the Forestry Commission (cf Establishment decree<sup>3</sup>). Article 4, paragraph 2 of the ministerial decree no. 14569/2016<sup>4</sup> on the establishment of the REDD+ National Platform outlines that the forestry commissions ensure that the National Platform is relayed and that all stakeholders participate. They are currently being formalized at the regional level by decree. The REDD+ Regional Platforms will advise and guide to support the coordination of consultation activities at the regional and local level in agreement with the BRC REDD+ supported by the BNC REDD+. It will take into account the resolutions made at the national level and will monitor and evaluate operational activities in the field. Updates on the responsibilities of these regional platforms are in progress and will be included in the regional decrees endorsing their official establishment. To this end, the five regional platforms will undergo capacity building in a progressive way from the second half of 2017 through training sessions and equipment allocation. Meetings with the PFR in the five regions of the ERP have provided important and constructive feedback from the viewpoints of different types of regional and local stakeholders to ensure that the design of the ERP reflects regional and local context.

Finally, at the local level, existing local organizations such as municipalities, VOIs and local consultation organizations (SLC) will play important roles in multi-sector coordination. According to [decree no. 2015-957 on the local consultation organization of decentralized local authorities](#) the SLCs are organizations designed for participatory governance at the municipal level.

*Action plan:*

- Strengthen the coordination and communication between PFN and PFRs, and within the sectors concerned
- Ensure sharing of information with all REDD+ institutions at all levels
- Continue developing links with agriculture sector as part of REDD+ planning, as agriculture is a key driver

#### **Criteria 4 and 5: Technical supervision capacity and fund management capacity**

Under the supervision of the Secretary-General of MEEF and led by a Coordinator, BNC REDD+ leads the technical supervision of all the activities and the funds management of the Madagascar REDD+ readiness

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<sup>2</sup> This document will be available on the MEEF website <http://www.ecologie.gov.mg/livable/>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.bnc-redd.mg/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&Itemid=104&id=24&lang=fr](http://www.bnc-redd.mg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&Itemid=104&id=24&lang=fr)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.bnc-redd.mg/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&Itemid=104&id=24&lang=fr](http://www.bnc-redd.mg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&Itemid=104&id=24&lang=fr)

phase. BNC REDD+ consists of five cells, composed of a team of multidisciplinary national technicians, reinforced by technical assistants in strategy, social and environmental evaluation, financial management and procurement, and a non-permanent communication assistant.

Training and capacity building for BNC REDD+ team members was conducted procurement procedures, MRV and conflict management to improve their capacity. In addition, the construction of a new office is being finalized, and most of the rolling stock, office and communications equipment necessary for the efficient operation of REDD+ NCB could also be acquired with FCPF funding.

In managing REDD+ Readiness Funds received from the World Bank (the FCPF Funds Manager), the BNC REDD+ has shown that it has the capacity for ensuring the effective implementation of the action plan and efficient use of the budget approved by both parties for the government. World Bank support missions are carried out periodically to ensure the good coordination of activities. However, there are some delays in disbursement due to some essential service activities that require good quality products.

*Action plan:*

- Strengthening the capacity of BRC REDD+
- Refine financial and administrative procedure manuals for all REDD+ bodies for the implementation phase

### **Criterion 6: Feedback and grievance redress mechanism**

The [R-PP document](#) foresees that the role of the National REDD+ platform is to receive and resolve complaints related to cross-sector conflicts, pertaining to REDD+ readiness that may arise and, if necessary, to bring them before the Inter-Ministerial Commission on the Environment (CIME)<sup>5</sup>. Then for the REDD+ Implementation Phase, the R-PP mentions the need for a REDD+ a Feedback and grievance redress mechanism (FGRM).

Since July 2016, a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) is being developed with funding from the FCPF. To develop a robust and inclusive complaint management mechanism tied to the REDD+, studies were conducted at the eastern eco-region, in the ERP area, as well as the eco-regions of the dry western forests, southern spiny forests and mangroves. Conclusive results are currently being achieved through analytical studies and stakeholder consultations at all levels and in several stages, namely: (i) identifying and prioritizing potential complaints and conflicts that may arise as a result of REDD+ activities; (ii) assessing current response capacities and resolving these conflicts with existing mechanisms; (iii) formulating indicators to be followed based on the results of the Cancun safeguard interpretation and safeguard policies of the World Bank and (iv) presenting a proposal for an institutional framework, a grievance, feedback and redress guide and an action plan for disseminating the mechanism and building the capacity of organizations. (cf. Report on the FGRM<sup>6</sup>).

The proposed mechanism builds on and strengthens existing structures, such as '*dina*' (local conventions or by-laws) that are familiar to the local population, however roles and responsibilities and the operational details of the mechanism still need to be clear articulated. A capacity building plan will be established at the end of the study to ensure sustainability and access to the mechanism by local people and all stakeholders involved in the REDD+ process.

*Action plan:*

- Finalize and validate the proposed institutional mechanism and complaints management guide for the FGRM
- Establish a complaints management and tracking system
- Strengthen the capacity of the FGRM managers

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<sup>5</sup> If the CIME is no longer operational, it shall be replaced by the association of Secretaries-General (SG) of relevant ministries chaired by the SG of the government and which will constitute the Steering Committee (COFIL) for the implementation of REDD+.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.bnc-redd.mg/images/documents/rapports/Rapport\\_2\\_MecanismedeGestiondePlainte.pdf](http://www.bnc-redd.mg/images/documents/rapports/Rapport_2_MecanismedeGestiondePlainte.pdf)

## Subcomponent 1b: Consultation, participation and outreach

### Criterion 7: Participation and engagement of key stakeholders

For Madagascar, stakeholders have committed themselves through different organizations, participation and consultation processes:

- **Members of the REDD+ National Platform (REDD+ PFN)** which provides the strategic direction of the process, were consulted throughout the five meetings (see meeting minutes<sup>7</sup>) to discuss and provide suggestions for improving the national vision of Madagascar's REDD+ program, strategic options and related activities, institutional frameworks and implementation executives of the REDD+ program (SIS, FGRM, NFMS, benefit sharing).
- **Members of the REDD+ Regional Platforms (REDD+ PFR)** in the five ERP regions (SAVA, Sofia, Analanjirofo, Alaotra Mangoro and Atsinanana) participated in the various consultations and studies carried out for REDD+ readiness (DD drivers, SESA, FGRM, SIS, Political economy and data collection). The REDD+ PFR also participated in the consultation and self-evaluation of the process for the preparation of ERP documents and the R-Package. As part of the process, the REDD+ PFR have ensured that regional strategic priorities and directions are reflected in the national REDD+ strategy.
- **Members of the REDD+ Civil Society Organizations (REDD+ CSO)** at both the national and regional levels, being members of the REDD+ PFN and PFR, also participated in the various consultations and studies carried out during the readiness process (DD drivers, SESA, FGRM, SIS, political economy analysis and data collection). They intervened to ensure that social issues, access to information and the interests of all stakeholders, including vulnerable populations, were considered in the strategy and in the implementation of REDD+ activities.
- **The members of the two Technical Groups (Safeguards Technical Group - GTS and Carbon Methodology Group - GMC)** that support the National Platform and BNC REDD+ have been involved in discussions on specific and technical issues. The GTS intervened to clarify the UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards (so-called 'Cancun Safeguards') and interpret these in the national context thus leading to the design of the SIS principles, criteria and indicators; to interpret and comment on the results and synthesis of field work within the SESA and FGRM framework; to analyze in order to improve policy options and related REDD+ activities as well as the institutional frameworks necessary for the proper implementation of these activities; and to propose methodologies for the identification of populations affected by the project (PAP) and vulnerable populations. As for the GMC, this group was involved in discussions on forest inventory techniques, the establishment of the allometric equation for *savoka* and *ravinala* forests, and monitoring (NFMS, MRV, FREL).
- Finally, **a wide range of stakeholders and institutions**, from different levels and sectors (members of village communities, administrative authorities at all levels - fokontany, municipalities, districts and regions - and decentralized technical service managers) took part in stakeholder consultations during the various studies cited above. The SESA involved a total of 1,373 people from 11 different entities. The number of male and female participants was noted in the participants' profile during the consultations and workshops and, overall, one quarter of participants were women.

#### Action plan:

- Support the participation and engagement of women's associations
- Finalize the definition of criteria for identification of vulnerable groups

### Criterion 8: Consultation processes

Consultation and participation are an integral part of the REDD+ national and regional processes in Madagascar. During the preparation of the R-PP and the ER-PIN, public consultations were carried out in the eight regions representative of the forest ecosystems of Madagascar. With FCPF funding, consultations were carried out at different levels (village, municipal, regional, national) in the nine Regions of the wet and dry forest eco-regions of Madagascar through the various studies conducted (political economy of deforestation

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<sup>7</sup> These documents will be available [http://www.bnc-redd.mg/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&Itemid=104&id=24&lang=fr](http://www.bnc-redd.mg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&Itemid=104&id=24&lang=fr)

and degradation, drivers of deforestation and degradation, SESA, FGRM, SIS). A focus was made in the ERP areas to engage relevant stakeholders in the design of REDD+ activities for the ERP and thus ensure real participation and support from all stakeholders involved in emission reductions.

A participatory and transparent approach is adopted for all consultations. Consultations have been conducted in the form of meetings, workshops and panel discussions. Since its inception, the REDD+ National Platform (PFN) has actively contributed to the REDD+ readiness process and its key stages. The appointment of representatives to join the platform was made at a meeting of each stakeholder group by the unanimous decision of the participants. The BNC REDD+ has used a facilitation specialist for consultations with the REDD+ PFN, in order to promote the effective participation of members and to avoid bias in the discussions and in the formulation of suggestions or recommendations in Madagascar's REDD+ readiness process. REDD+ PFN consultations have been held periodically, usually monthly, on various topics in preparation for REDD+. The consultations usually focus on a specific topic, and have been repeated on several occasions for topics that deserved reflection or continuous improvements.

Similarly, for Regional Platforms, regular meetings have been held, involving detailed discussions and answering requests for clarification, and many recommendations have been received on specific consultation topics.

*Action plan:*

- Continue regular consultations at different levels (village, municipal, regional, national) with PFN, PFRs and CSOs

### **Criterion 9. Information sharing and accessibility of information**

A national REDD+ Madagascar communication strategy was developed between December 2016 and May 2017 with the participation of stakeholders through local consultations and the organization of workshops and meetings at different levels. The overall objective of this strategy is *“the promotion of stakeholder participation in the REDD+ mechanism.”* In order to ensure the dissemination of information and the effective management of communication activities and tools, this communication strategy has been translated into a communication plan for its implementation. This enables, inter alia, effective communication between the entities involved in the REDD+ mechanism, ensuring visibility of BNC REDD+ and its activities, and informing the stakeholders on a regular basis on REDD+ progress and activities. Newly developed, the communication plan will be implemented during the REDD+ readiness phased as well as during the implementation of the national REDD+ Madagascar strategy. The choice of key messages, as well as the communication tools and mediums to be used, will vary according to the targets and objectives of the national REDD+ communication strategy.

Different types of information will be disseminated, for example decisions and information about stakeholder interests, different forms of consultation-debates, opinions, observations and feedback. Information has already been widely shared through:

- Communications exchanges (with the Minister of the Environment, Ecology and Forests, the Coordinator and members of the BNC REDD+ team) at the Malagasy government and parliament level (Deputies) to present the REDD+ readiness of Madagascar. Communication is also exchanged upon invitation from the Action Plan Organization for Rural Development associated with the Prime Minister; Representatives of the organizations operating on Rural Development attended this session.
- Meetings, workshops and awareness-raising campaigns organized by BNC REDD+ at the national level and in five regions of Madagascar to inform and sensitize the various stakeholders on the progress of Madagascar's REDD+ readiness and the benefits gained from the process; Dissemination and information sharing activities are still to be carried out throughout Madagascar's REDD+ readiness process, namely the ERP message, the carbon revenue sharing mechanism, the REDD+ complaints management mechanism etc);
- Information sharing was carried out at the national level and in nine regions of Madagascar and was organized through presentation, restitution and validation meetings (eg MRV, FGRM, SIS, SESA, Communication Strategy, Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation) by service providers or consultants of the BNC REDD+. In order to verify and share the information, different phases were followed, including a consultation phase and then a validation phase. To ensure a good understanding of the information and to encourage debate, some documents and information are translated into the

Malagasy language (e.g. documents, presentations and debates during the consultations on the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) conducted by the ONE) and/or illustrated (e.g. comic strip in the Malagasy language when analyzing the political economy of deforestation and forest degradation with the FCPF fund, illustrated posters reflecting Malagasy reality and comprehensible for persons not able to read during the national celebration of World Environment Day 2017).

- Participation of BNC REDD+ team members at Climate Change Information Days in three regions allowed for direct interaction with the public and stakeholders. These favor the dissemination of information in Malagasy through presentations and exhibitions.
- Communication tools are produced in a systematic and up-to-date manner; These communication tools, such as brochures, leaflets, banners and posters, ensure the promotion of the REDD+ message and visibility for all organizations and at all events. Most of these tools are produced in the Malagasy language with terms not too technical but understandable by stakeholders.
- The media, which is a key lever for the dissemination of information on a wide scale, is being used for the preparation and implementation of the REDD+ mechanism in Madagascar. First, they have already been productive and will continue to be used to communicate events, publications and calls for tender, invitations to workshops and conferences or other. Second, interviews and press releases are used to frame and disseminate information and messages related to REDD+. Training of environmental journalists is carried out to inform them and to create a partnership in order to promote the REDD+ mechanism. The organization of a televised debate in Malagasy on REDD+ on Malagasy Television during the “REDD+ Madagascar Academy” in October 2016 made it possible to nationally disseminate information and share the advances of the REDD+ process in Madagascar.
- Other communication tools have already been developed to disseminate information on the REDD+ mechanism and its advances throughout the territory and internationally:
  - ✓ [Newsletter REDD+ Madagascar](#) : The newsletter was released at the beginning of 2017. Its goal is to maintain a dynamic link with the public and stakeholders. With a quarterly edition, the newsletter allows to disseminate information on progress and events. The first edition focuses on the progress made in the readiness phase and the forthcoming outlook for the BNC REDD+. Similarly, upcoming publications will address both achievements and outlooks over each three-month period. Stakeholder participation through the writing of articles will be encouraged in future publications. An English translation is planned for future publications.
  - ✓ BNC REDD+ web site: The website ([www.bnc-redd.mg](http://www.bnc-redd.mg)) was launched in May 2017. It is a support medium for the promotion of the REDD+ mechanism, seeing that it's an open channel for dissemination. On the one hand, it allows access to information and documents at any time because the data will be updated periodically. On the other hand, it allows the transmission of information on an international scale, the site being accessible to the whole world. With a tree structure and a charter already defined, the website has undergone the entire stage of shape and design creation. As for the content, it is continuously evolving because the information must be updated and varied. The BNC REDD+ benefits from information dissemination (e.g. sharing of study results, calls for tender, reporting of workshops, consultations) on its website and simultaneously on the website of the Ministry ([www.ecologie.gov.mg](http://www.ecologie.gov.mg)).
  - ✓ Social Media: Information (e.g. news, offers) is currently viewed on the Ministry's facebook account (MEEF Madagascar). The BNC REDD+ plans to create its own social network account (facebook or other) soon.

Civil Society Organizations (REDD+ CSOs) at the national and regional level, support the BNC REDD+ on issues related to awareness and the mobilization of all stakeholders to participate in the REDD+ program and also in the dissemination of information.

*Action plan:*

- Ensure the regular updating of the BNC REDD+ website
- Finalize, validate and implement the national REDD+ communication strategy
- Ensure a choice of targeted means of communication for a good understanding of each stakeholder group
- Establish a partnership with the government departments in charge of communication and education
- Support intersectoral communication and networking

## **Criterion 10. Information and public disclosure of consultation outcomes**

The results of the consultations are disclosed by means of approved consultation reports. They are uploaded to the website of [MEEF](#) and BNC REDD+ as a digital file. The contents are also taken into account when formulating the national REDD+ strategy and when drawing up the ERP document.

After several consultations and meetings of the REDD+ National Platform (PFN) and REDD+ Regional Platforms (PFRs), the institutional systems and arrangements are becoming increasingly defined, and will thus enable the implementation of REDD+ activities in an effective, efficient and transparent manner. This also enables new and very important aspects to be incorporated: financial systems, the benefit-sharing mechanism, the methods for monitoring and assessment (carbon, environmental and social) and the on-going and continuous consultation of stakeholders. Other meetings of the REDD+ National Platform were held with the aim of prioritizing the "potential activities" for the national strategy.

The results of the consultations are also shared and discussed at the different levels of technical discussion, such as focus group meetings (definition of reference levels and monitoring systems), meetings of members of the REDD+ Civil Society Organizations (CSO), strategic institutional arrangement meetings with the National Climate Change Coordination Office (BNC CC), and the establishment of the Malagasy Forest Policy (POLFOR).

While reports of all consultations have been prepared, there have been challenges in providing feedback to stakeholders who participated in consultations. Greater efforts will be made to ensure prompt circulation of reports to all invited parties and to establish mechanisms for communication and feedback to local levels in the implementation phase of REDD+, bearing in mind the logistical challenges in Madagascar where very few people in rural areas have access to internet.

*Action plan:*

- Upload the consultation reports to the website
- Provide the minutes and reports for meetings to all invited parties
- Distribute summaries of studies and consultations (BRC office, regions, districts, municipalities, SLCs, libraries)

## **Component 2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation**

*Sub-component 2a: Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers of DD, forestry law, policy and governance*

### **Criterion 11: Assessment and analysis**

To expand existing knowledge of factors in deforestation and degradation, as required to develop the REDD+ strategy, additional studies were carried out with the funding of UN-REDD+ in 2015 and the World Bank in 2016. Those financed by the FCPF fund have been underway since July 2016.

The results of all the various studies and analyses have been taken into account in the REDD+ preparation. A spatial analysis of the causes of deforestation and the forest degradation and the reference emission level was carried out as part of [PERR-FH](#) by the WCS/ONE/MNP/Etc Terra Consortium in 2014 for the period 2005-2010-2013, the results of which constitute preconditions for the continuation of the REDD+ readiness process. The results do not cover the entire country and updates to the information obtained have proven to be necessary for other forest ecosystems (dry forest, mangrove, spiny forest etc).

In addition, a series of studies were carried out with the support of UN REDD in 2015. These included a study that assessed institutional and capacity requirements and gaps for REDD+ activities in Madagascar including related to land tenure, planning and management, governance and monitoring. An analysis was conducted on the legal and policy framework for REDD+. A further study analysed the issues related to land tenure and implications for REDD+ strategy options. A dialogue was also conducted on design considerations for the NFMS (links to these studies can be found on the website of BNC REDD+). To expand existing knowledge of factors in deforestation and degradation and the requirements for development of the REDD+ strategy, a study of the REDD+ political economy has enabled improvements to be made to the preliminary strategic options in the RPP. This study was further deepened through the collection of socio-economic and political data for REDD+ in the ERP zone and the West Madagascar zone was funded by FCPF at the beginning of 2016. Furthermore, the SESA has built on these earlier studies to provide detailed inputs to refine REDD+ sub-options

and activities taking into account rights to natural resources, land tenure and governance, and implications for forest law and policy.

Finally, the analysis of [drivers of deforestation and forest degradation](#) carried out with FCPF funding in 2017 confirmed the prioritization of factors in deforestation and forest degradation. The analyses conducted on the basis of biophysical variables, accessibility, and the existence of protected areas and natural resource management transfer agreements, made it possible to establish models to locate deforestation in both dry and humid and forests. These models explain 59.64% and 72.19% of deforestation observed in the past for, respectively, dry and humid forests.

These results may initially seem relatively poor. However, they should be seen in the context of the accuracy of the forest and deforestation map produced by [PERR-FH](#), on which the study is based. The accuracy was 89% for humid forest and 76% for dry forest, which may explain the difference in accuracy between the models for the two regions. In addition, the geographical variables used as explaining factors themselves involve a degree of inaccuracy that it is impossible for us to quantify, and their exhaustiveness may vary across the country. This all reduces the accuracy of the models. Finally, the deforestation model developed by Salva Terra and Louvain Catholic University shows that the deforestation trend for dry and humid forests tends towards a reduction in deforestation from 84,849 ha/year (2013-2018) to 74,814 ha/year (2018-2028).

*Action plan:*

- Organize information sessions for the presentation and gathering of feedback for the main elements of the REDD+ National Strategy
- Ensure the incorporation of the migration aspect in the development of REDD+ national strategy

#### **Criterion 12. Prioritization of direct and indirect factors, and barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement**

The studies carried out have confirmed the direct and indirect causes of deforestation and forest degradation identified in the R-PP, and have enabled an improvement of the REDD+ strategic options. A workshop featuring a presentation of the results on the deforestation and degradation of forests was conducted in February 2017 and resulted in consensus among the stakeholders concerning factors in deforestation and forest degradation. In summary, and in order of importance, the analysis identified the following principal factors (see Figure 3):

- *direct factors:* fires from annual cultivation, mining, livestock farming, timber trading, fuelwood and construction wood, charcoal, roads, permanent crops, agriculture.
- *indirect factors:* demographic, political and institutional, technological, cultural, biophysical, economic.

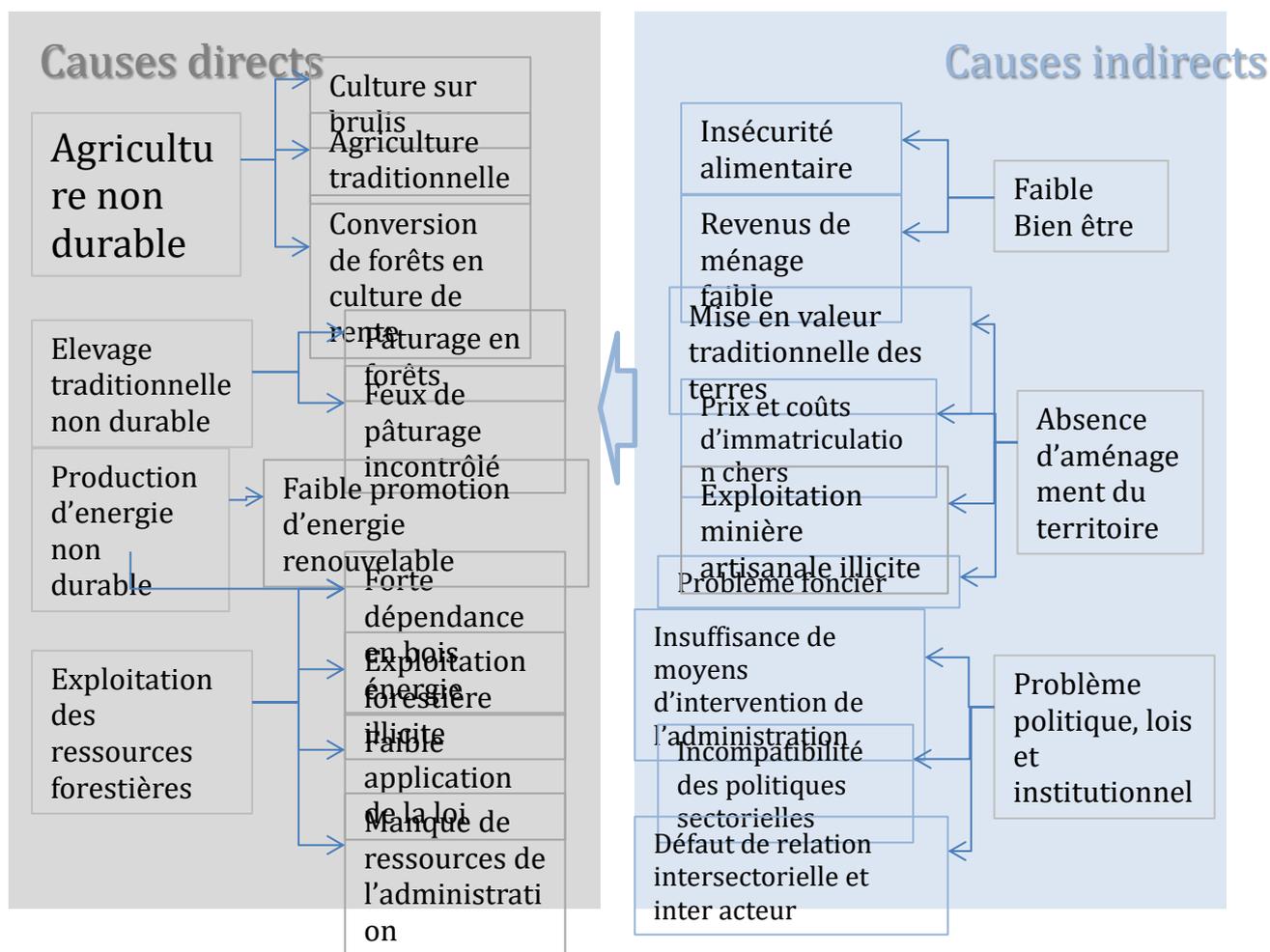


Figure 3: Causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Madagascar

All these conducted studies are crucial and complement one another, thus maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of operations to implement the national REDD+ strategy in Madagascar.

### Criterion 13: Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities

The REDD+ strategy options and activities have been developed iteratively throughout the readiness phase, building on the initial development of strategy options presented in the RPP and refining them iteratively through the various studies conducted. There are clear links between the deforestation factors and the REDD+ activities. These links are presented in various results from studies carried out in the REDD+ preparatory phase, particularly in the reports of the analysis of the drivers of deforestation and of the SESA. Each factor identified as causing deforestation and degradation of forests, whether direct or indirect, has been analyzed and measures have been proposed to address them. In many cases the proposed activities can address several factors or barriers. The proposed REDD+ activities effectively result from various consultations at all levels. The revisions of strategic options reflect a growing systematization of the relationship between deforestation factors and REDD+ activities, in particular in the agriculture, energy and mining sector.

Action plan:

- Improve the involvement of all sectors in developing the SN REDD+.

### Criteria 14 and 15: Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance, and implications for forest law and policy

The role of REDD+ is as a catalyst, since this is a transformational process involving all the sectors concerned by issues of deforestation and forest degradation. With this goal in mind, the REDD+ National Coordination Office (BNC REDD+) ensures the involvement of the REDD+ aspect in existing political sectors via the REDD+

National Platform and participation in the various meetings organized by the sectors concerned. The SESA identified REDD+ sub-options and activities taking into account rights to natural resources, land tenure and governance, and implications for forest law and policy. Further, activities to support the establishment of structures for consultation and land planning are planned as part of the REDD+ preparatory phase. The National Development Plan (PND) already incorporates REDD+ via anti-deforestation measures and the sustainable management of natural resources.

The BNC REDD+ currently supports the finalization of the national forest policy (POLFOR) and the forest code via an agreement with the forest authorities. The new POLFOR, which takes into account the issue of REDD+ in Madagascar, is currently being formalized.

*Action plan:*

- Supporting the finalization of the forest law and forest code and proposing implementing laws for REDD+: carbon tax, carbon duty, benefit sharing, institutional system, financial system, complaint management system.

### ***Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ Strategy***

#### **Criterion 16: Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options**

The preparation process for the National REDD+ Strategy is underway. Consultation work and rounds of meetings were carried out to establish the four preliminary strategic options in the RPP. The selected strategic options are the result of continuous dialogue and sectoral policy guidelines from the last decade. Following the different studies carried out during the REDD+ preparatory phase, the four strategic options were selected for implementation of REDD+. Improvements were included based on the proposals and recommendations from the consultation work with all the stakeholders. The consultation and analysis process resulted in the following strategic options:

- (1) Improve the political framework and governance of the sectors concerned by deforestation and forest degradation;
- (2) Promote the sustainable management and effective use of forest resources;
- (3) Promote the sustainable and effective development of rural land and spaces; and
- (4) Implement sustainable alternatives to deforestation and forest degradation and support rural substitution practices.

The strategic options were broken down into sub-options and potential activities in relation to the priority issues identified via the SESA. Potential activities are therefore proposed after being identified as priorities by the REDD+ National Platform, the focus groups (GMC and GTS), and the REDD+ CSO. These options and priorities are detailed in depth in the ERPD.

#### **Criterion 17: Feasibility assessment**

An analysis of the sectoral visions for REDD+ and their potential areas of conflict and synergy in relation to the REDD+ intervention areas was initially carried out with UN-REDD support in 2015. The social and environmental strategic assessment for REDD+ (SESA) has enabled the preliminary proposals for the strategic options to be refined based on the priorities identified during the consultation work with the stakeholders. The SESA proposed conducting an assessment of the feasibility of the strategic options based on the risks and impacts linked to REDD+. Additionally, an assessment of the benefits and impacts, implementation feasibility, economic advantages and costs of the areas of intervention, and the sustainability of the REDD+ strategic options, was undertaken.

#### **Criterion 18. Implications of strategic options on existing sectoral policies**

It is already clear that the strategic options will need refinement and updating, since defining them requires an exhaustive and holistic analysis of deforestation and degradation in relation to the sectoral policies, via exchanges and rounds of meetings with all the sectors or existing structures in the context of REDD+. The analysis will benefit from ongoing work and studies launched and/or planned under current FCPF funding,

which will be completed towards the end of 2017. It should be noted that the national strategy will be broken down into inter-regional spatialized strategies to achieve operationalization in the short and medium term.

In order to move ahead with the process of developing and implementing the REDD+ strategy, a meeting with decision-makers has been tentatively set for August 2017 in order to present the results of the national strategy development process and to ensure the commitment of the sectors involved in the REDD+ process. This is an important political step in moving towards national approval of the strategy.

### **Subcomponent 2c: Implementation Framework**

#### **Criteria 19 and 20: Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations and guidelines for implementation**

The studies of requirements in terms of institutional and legislative reform and of the legal and regulatory analysis relating to REDD+ contained recommendations for improvements to the legal framework in order to fill in certain gaps, specifically in the area of carbon ownership, and to the regulatory frameworks for benefit-sharing. Further, the REDD+ BNC has specifically ensured that REDD+ is incorporated into the new Forest Policy (POLFOR) and the Forest Code which are currently being finalized.

The REDD+ BNC has organized a round of meetings with the REDD+ PFN and the focus groups (GMC and GTS) to discuss the establishment of the REDD+ institutional and financial system. A proposal was developed and improved with the PFN after presenting and discussing it with the focus groups.

The diagram below (Figure 4) outlines the proposed institutional framework for the ER-P (cf. Report from the organization of the meeting of the REDD+ National Platform, Hôtel le Pavé, Antananarivo, February 2017). This is intended to develop towards the establishment of the national implementation network, following meetings with the REDD+ National Platform, while taking into account national experiences in the area of governance and recommendations gathered during baseline studies.

The following table sets out the mandates for decision making.

	<b>Decision-making entity</b>			
	<i>National Activities</i>	<i>Regional Activities</i>	<i>Inter-Community Activities</i>	<i>Community Activities</i>
Selection and Scheduling of activities to be carried out	PFN, BNC	PFR, BRC	Inter-community Platform (IP)	Community SLC
(Quantitative) Objective-Setting SLC	BNC	BRC	Inter-community SLC	Community SLC
Choice of intervention areas (extensions, new, etc.)	Prioritization in the national strategy	Prioritization in the regional strategy (breakdown of the national strategy)	Inter-community Platform	Community SLC

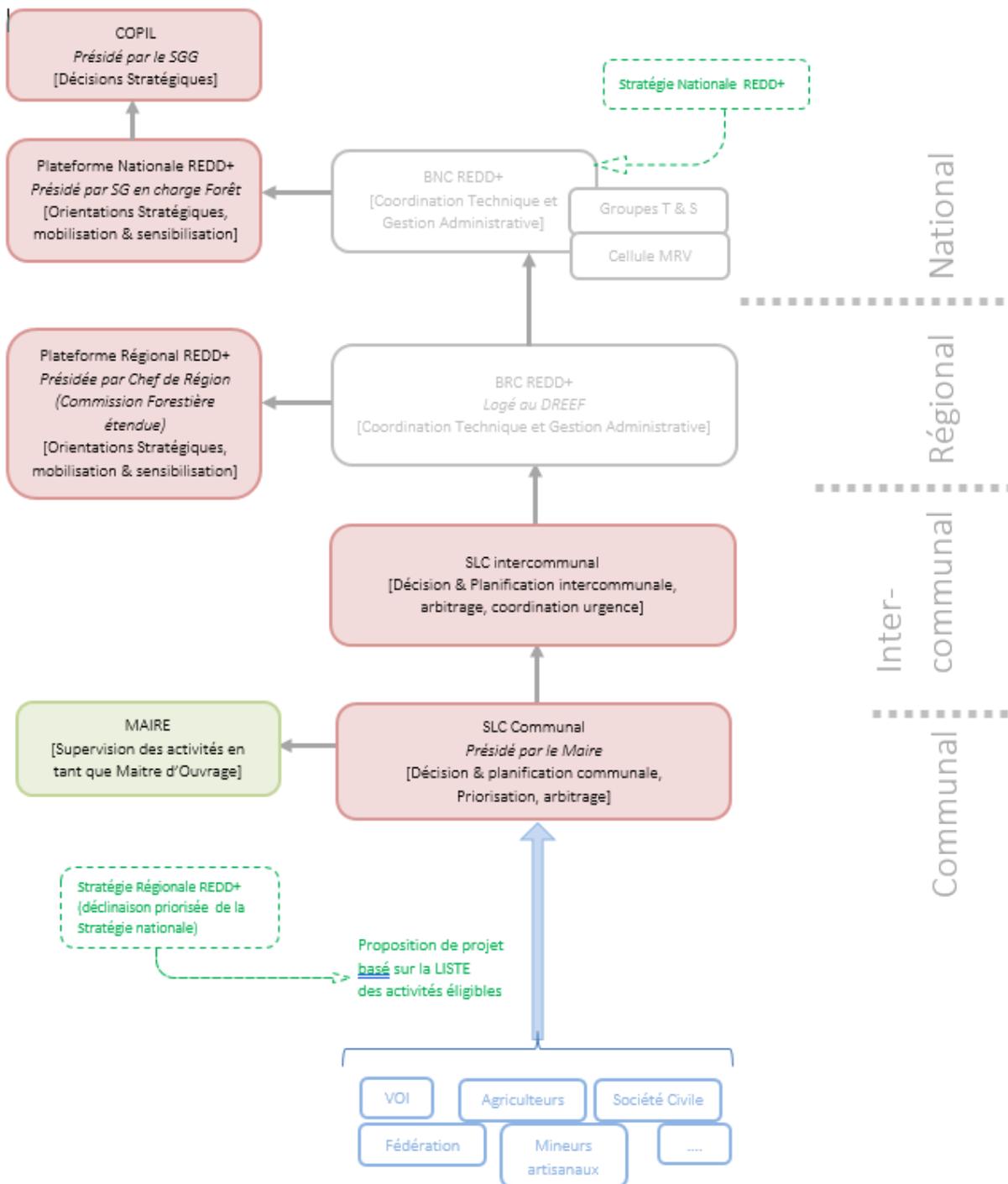


Figure 4 Institutional Arrangements (BNC REDD+)

Action plan:

- Develop the action plan for the implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy
- Finalize the benefit-sharing mechanism, the REDD+ funding arrangements, the official procedures for the approval of pilot schemes, and the complaints/appeals mechanism
- Establish directives for obtaining *free, prior and informed consent* (FPIC)

### Criterion 21: Benefit-sharing mechanism

The study of the REDD+ benefit-sharing mechanism is currently being carried out in Madagascar. Institutional and regulatory proposals are expected. Principles were presented to the National Platform, where questions and requirements were raised and then passed on to the firm carrying out the study. Principles have been

discussed building on experiences with benefit-sharing in/around national parks and providing revenues to surrounding communities as well from discussions for the ERP. Considerations are being considered that are equitable, that encourage local and regional initiatives and make opportunities available to a diverse range of stakeholders, including private sector, small scale stakeholders, vulnerable communities etc.

*Action plan:*

- Develop benefit-sharing proposals and present them at the level of the PFNs and PFRs
- Create a specific and independent REDD+ fund

### **Criterion 22: National REDD+ registry and system for monitoring REDD+ activities**

Work on determining how the register should be set up has just begun. This element has been started later in the preparation phase due to the need to make progress on other elements like the FREL, NFMS, MRV, strategy options and potential REDD+ activities and institutional arrangements before designing the registry and activity monitoring system. The REDD+ national register is intended to act as a source for the parent register at the National Climate Change Office to permit the latter to meet its obligations towards the United Nations Framework Agreement on Climate Change, in particular, the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory and National Communications.

*Action plan:*

- Design and operationalize a forest carbon registry

### **Subcomponent 2d: Social and environmental impacts**

#### **Criterion 23: Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues**

For the analysis of socio-economic aspects and biodiversity, a strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA) has been carried out with FCPF funding since June 2016. The goal is to ensure that the environmental and social risks of implementing the REDD+ program are fully taken into account from the earliest stage of the process, in order to maximize the social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits while reducing any risks and negative impacts.

Further, the process of conducting the SESA made it possible to encourage the participation of all stakeholders and to apply a transparent and inclusive approach to decision-making in relation to the REDD+ program in Madagascar. Throughout the SESA process, an analytical and participatory approach was consistently applied. It may be summarized as follows:

1. Firstly, a national REDD+ SESA process launch workshop was held. The purpose of the workshop was to involve all stakeholders in the REDD+ process and, among other things, to determine the environmental, social, economic and governance-related issues linked to REDD+, define the positive and negative impacts associated with these issues, and propose measures to address these impacts<sup>8</sup>.
2. Village- and community-level surveys and consultations were conducted to aid understanding of problems relating to the management of forests and rural spaces enable the creation of a problem tree for deforestation and forest degradation, the identification of the root causes of these problems, and the prioritization of the environmental and social issues. This prioritization of issues<sup>9</sup> has made it possible to provide recommendations for the improvement of the strategic options and sub-options, as well as the resulting activities.
3. The purpose of the regional workshops in which all stakeholders participate, including the representatives of civil society and grassroots communities, was to assess the strategic options and sub-options for REDD+ by analyzing successes and failings (retrospective consideration) and analyzing areas of potential and obstacles (prospective consideration) in order to draw up measures and recommendations.<sup>10</sup>

The process and results of the SESA are documented in the interim reports and a final report<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.bnc-redd.mg/images/documents/rapports/Rapport\\_2\\_evaluationenvironnementaleetsocialestrategique.pdf](http://www.bnc-redd.mg/images/documents/rapports/Rapport_2_evaluationenvironnementaleetsocialestrategique.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.bnc-redd.mg/images/documents/rapports/Rapport\\_2\\_evaluationenvironnementaleetsocialestrategique.pdf](http://www.bnc-redd.mg/images/documents/rapports/Rapport_2_evaluationenvironnementaleetsocialestrategique.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.bnc-redd.mg/images/documents/rapports/Rapport\\_3\\_EvaluationEnvironnementaleetSocialeStrategique.pdf](http://www.bnc-redd.mg/images/documents/rapports/Rapport_3_EvaluationEnvironnementaleetSocialeStrategique.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> The final SESA report for REDD+ Madagascar will be available on the BNC-REDD+ website <http://www.bnc-redd.mg/> once it has been approved.

*Action plan:*

- Finalize and approve the final SESA report

**Criterion 24: REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts**

In addition to the interpretation and explanation of the Cancun safeguards, the SESA procedure also made it possible to improve the strategic options and sub-options and potential activities for the Madagascar REDD+ program. This improvement took place in two stages, firstly (i) via an assessment of the strategic options in relation to environmental issues in order to produce recommendations for the improvement of these strategic options and sub-options, and then (ii) via an assessment of the positive and negative impacts of the strategic options and sub-options to produce the safeguard measures (Ref: SESA report for REDD+ Madagascar). The SESA was conducted through an iterative process of analysis and consultations, with the findings of each stage being shared with BNCR, members of the national and regional REDD+ platforms and with other stakeholders through meetings, presentations and interim reports. This process enabled information from the SESA process to feed into other studies and into design of the REDD+ strategy and operational elements before the final SESA report has been published.

*Action plan:*

- Finalize and approve the safeguard information system plan including REDD+ impact monitoring

**Criterion 25: Environmental and Social Management Framework**

The process and the results of SESA are also enabling the development of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) which is being prepared with the aim of enabling the assessment and mitigation of potentially negative impacts on the environment and society, as well as the optimization of carbon and non-carbon benefits of REDD+ projects and activities.

Two other framework documents are also being developed to complement the ESMF, namely:

- The Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF),<sup>12</sup> which sets out the criteria and procedures to follow in the event that the implementation of REDD+ projects and activities includes the risk of negative social impacts on land rights, property or means of subsistence (such as involuntary resettlement or restriction of access to resources).
- Process Framework (PF)<sup>13</sup> which describes the participatory process by which the members of communities at risk of being negatively affected by the implementation of REDD+ projects and activities are involved, among other things, in determining the eligibility criteria for persons affected by REDD+ projects (PAP), proposing measures to assist PAPs in their efforts to reconstitute or improve their livelihoods, and finally monitoring the use of the complaint management mechanism.

Guidelines for REDD+ activities are being developed to ensure that populations likely to be affected by each project (PAP) must give their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in relation to any procedures and decisions applied as part of the compensation process before it is approved and implemented (included in action plan for criteria 19-20 above). This procedure is clearly specified in the three framework documents cited above.

*Action plan:*

- Finalize and approve the ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework), the RPF (Resettlement Policy Framework) and the PF (Process Framework)
- Ensure the reinforcement of capacities for their operationalization
- Develop and approve directives on the implementation of the frameworks

**Component 3. Reference Emissions Level/ Reference Levels**

**Criterion 26: Demonstration of methodology**

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<sup>12</sup> This document will be available on the BNC-REDD+ website <http://www.bnc-redd.mg/> after it has been validated.

<sup>13</sup> This document will be available on the BNC-REDD+ website <http://www.bnc-redd.mg/> after it has been validated.

The Republic of Madagascar submitted its reference emissions level for forests ([FREL](#)) to the UNFCCC in January 2017. The FREL was established by BNC REDD+ in collaboration with the Madagascar Climate Change focal point, a consulting firm, and a methodology expert from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The FREL is established on the basis of existing information in Madagascar such as the results of studies by the Eco-Regional Emissions Reduction Plan for Humid Forests (PERR-FH 2014<sup>14</sup>), the results of the National Ecological Forest Inventory (IEFN 1996), the different deforestation maps, and the results of various studies.

First, a methodological workshop was organized in Moramanga in April 2016 in order to clarify certain technical and methodological elements vital to the establishment of the FREL in ERP intervention zones, in particular: (1) a definition of the terms "degradation", "deforestation" and "forest" as well as (2) the methodology used to establish the forest inventory and assess ecological integrity. Involved in this workshop were representatives of the Directorate for the Promotion of Natural Resources (DVRF) at the MEEF and various international and national specialists who have worked on REDD+ pilot projects. Next, the team from the methodology unit at BNC REDD+ received a boost to its capacities via a FREL/NFMS exchange project with the support of UN-REDD+ in Congo in February 2016 and training on forest monitoring and the MRV system in Côte d'Ivoire in February 2017. Training on the use of Precision in Collect Earth was also carried out in January 2017 in Madagascar.

An initial assessment of the document was carried out through *Technical Assessment* (TA) by the UNFCCC during the week of 13 March 2017. Technical discussions took place between the TAs, the Malagasy technical experts, and the FCPF methodology expert. A report from this assessment enabled Madagascar to improve the document. Madagascar submitted its improved version of the FREL document on 23 May 2017 to the UNFCCC for a second technical assessment. The areas of improvement relate mainly to the additional information for the calculation of activity data, the emissions factors for improved accuracy and transparency in the national FREL.

The FREL will be improved based on the availability of data: results from future inventories for dense dry forests in the West (June 2017-September 2017), spiny forests and mangroves (May 2018-August 2018); the updating of the national deforestation analysis with the 2016 data.

The FREL document presents a description of the steps and calculations used to establish the national reference level, including:

- The historical data on deforestation between 2005 and 2013;
- The methodological approach used for the historical analysis of deforestation, in particular the identification of data, processing and analysis, and the assessment of accuracy;
- The calculation of uncertainty in emission factors and the reference level.

The FREL is therefore a historical average of historical emissions from deforestation between 2005 and 2013.

As mentioned above, the national FREL will be improved when new data is available and the methodology is improved.

The draft of the ER-Program document including the establishment of the FREL for this program was finalized and submitted to the FCPF on 26 May 2017. The FREL for the ERP was based on the same existing information used for the national FREL (IEFN 1996 and PERR-FH) and then refined using the results of various studies conducted for the ERP that helped to improve the calculation of activity data, and to develop an allometric equation for *ravinala* and the biomass factor of *young savoka*. These refinements enabled greater precision in the calculations of the FREL for the PRE. In terms of methodology, the national FREL and the FREL for the ERP are consistent with respect to emissions factors, but there is a difference in the method for calculation of emissions factors. BNCR has an action plan to update the national FREL to ensure consistency between them.

#### *Action plan:*

- Improve the national FREL (Reference Emissions Level for Forests) with the integration of forestry inventory data from the western dry forest eco-region, mangrove forest and spiny forest

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<sup>14</sup> This document will be available on the BNC-REDD+ website <http://www.bnc-redd.mg>.

## Criterion 27: Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances

The average historical emissions originating from deforestation were calculated using the method set out in the reference emission level.

A complete map of the country was drawn up based on the definition of the forest for the historical record of deforestation. The map shows the loss of forests between 2005, 2010 and 2013 and provides all the results of analyses prior to deforestation. [Deforestation maps](#) have been drawn up:

- As part of the PERR-FH Project, for the periods 2005-2010-2013;
- With Conservation International (CI), 1990-2000;
- With MEEF as part of the JARIALA Project 1990-2000-2005;
- With MEEF, CI and ONE, 2000-2005-2010<sup>15</sup>.

Madagascar is a country with low forest cover and a high rate of deforestation. No current event justifies any sharp increase in the deforestation rate over the coming years. The historical period used for the FREL should enable a general estimate of future deforestation. For this reason, the adjustment was not taken into account when calculating the FREL. The studies estimating the degradation are underway at a consulting firm, and will enable a decision as to whether degradation will be taken into account as part of REDD+ activity if emissions reach 10% of total emissions.

In order to improve the calculation of the NERF, a study was carried out with FCPF funding, concerning: (1) The establishment of allometric equations for secondary forest formations where *Ravenala madagascariensis* is predominant, in East Madagascar; and (2) The determination of a biomass factor for young savoka shrub populations, in order to assess the carbon stocks for these plant layers in the humid forest ecoregion in East Madagascar.<sup>16</sup>

*Action plan:*

- Update the national deforestation analysis with the data for 2016

## Criterion 28: Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with the UNFCCC and IPCC guidance and guidelines

The BNC REDD+ followed the UNFCCC "Guidelines" in establishing the FREL. In this case, the following guidelines were used:

- Decision 4/CP15 which encourages developing countries to use the IPCC's most recent guidelines and directives, as adopted or recommended by the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, to calculate the emissions (sources) and removal (sinks) of GHGs linked to forests as well as forest carbon stocks and changes in forest area;
- Similarly, the FCPF's Carbon Fund Methodological Framework, Criterion 5, requires that "The emissions reduction Program uses the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance and guidelines, as adopted or encouraged by the Conference of the Parties as a basis for estimating forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks. "

In accordance with these guidelines, the FREL was developed following the rules and methods recommended by the IPCC, 2006. According to the IPCC's definitions, the methodology is based on the approach of gains and losses, i.e. an estimate of the net balance of additions to and absorptions from a carbon stock (IPCC, 2006 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Volume 4, section 2.2).

*Action plan:*

- Improve the FREL document as recommended by the UNFCCC

## Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards

### Sub-component 4a: National forest monitoring system

#### Criterion 29: Documentation of monitoring approach

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<sup>15</sup> This document will be available on the BNC-REDD+ website <http://www.bnc-redd.mg/>

<sup>16</sup> The results of this study will be available on the BNC-REDD+ website <http://www.bnc-redd.mg/>

The objective of the MRV system is to monitor emissions caused by deforestation and forest degradation, in order for countries to assess their performance in relation to the reference level (FREL). A methodological unit has been created within the BNC REDD+ to support the REDD+ process in Madagascar, in particular to ensure that the national forest inventory work is carried out and the analysis of the activity data for the development of the national NERF is conducted, as well as the analysis of the ERP.

As part of Madagascar's preparation for REDD+, the development of a forest surveillance system (NFMS) includes the following activities:

- The satellite land monitoring system is based on the analysis of satellite images and enables the collection and evaluation of activity data causing impacts on the forest (deforested area, degraded forest area).
- The national forest inventory is planned for three phases, two of which have been completed:
  - (i) Inventory of the Eastern Humid Forest Ecoregion, completed as part of the 2013 PERR-FH project;
  - (ii) Inventory in degraded forests and in secondary formations in the eastern humid forest ecoregion, carried out by the Directorate of Forest Resource Development (DVRF) in 2016;
  - (iii) Inventory in the western dense dry forests, mangrove and spiny forests, to be carried out by May 2018 by the DVRF.
- The national greenhouse gas inventory is needed for reporting to the UNFCCC. The country already published the second national communication in 2010. The BNC CC (National Climate Change Coordination Office) is responsible for this communication.

A large part of the activities for the development of the NFMS/MRV has therefore already been undertaken. The monitoring methodology using remote sensing data and forest inventory as well as the greenhouse gas inventory needed for 'measurement', are the same as used for the calculation of the FREL. The next step is to describe the activities to be undertaken to enable operationalization of the geomatics laboratory which will generate the information on activity data needed to satisfy the international requirements in terms of reporting (GHG inventory, Biannual Update Report...) and the MRV required for the ERP for FCPF.

*Action plan:*

- Draw up an action plan to finalize the development and operationalization of the NFMS/MRV system

### **Criterion 30: Demonstration of early system implementation**

Aside from the aforementioned inventory work, the creation and installation of the geomatics laboratory is underway and forms a part of the implementation stage of the national forest monitoring system. The related activities are particularly based on remote sensing.

With respect to the establishment of the geomatics lab, BNC REDD+ already possesses a dedicated room in its new office and hardware including a fiber optical connection and a file server room (with two file servers). Technicians from different departments in MEEF who are likely to work in the lab have received training on MRV skills (including analysis of precision of deforestation maps, tools for forest inventory of Global Land Analysis and Discovery (GLAD) as part of the Global Forest Watch project, GIS, a workshop on NFMS/MRV organized by GFOI, training on calculation of FREL by FRMi). Nevertheless, some activities must still be undertaken to enable effective functioning of the geomatics lab, including a review of the definition of forests, a study of the system of classification for land use as well as officialization of the proposed institutional arrangements for the NFMS/MRV (see Criterion 31).

On May 26 2017, Madagascar submitted the ERP document which described the procedure for monitoring activity results and leakages as well as the calculation for reducing emissions in relation to the NERF.

*Action plan:*

- Implement the forest monitoring system under the ERP, with the involvement of stakeholders (GMC and its reference level technical group (GT REL))

### Criterion 31: Institutional arrangements and capacities

The institutional arrangements for the NFMS is under discussion and will be finalized in September 2017. This arrangement shows the organization in terms of data circulation and storage between the various institutions. The types of information provided by different institutions will also be defined.

Figure 5 below shows the institutional plan for the MRV process. This was developed from a UN REDD+ study on the analysis of requirements for implementing an NFMS<sup>17</sup> and a study by FRMi<sup>18</sup> in Madagascar; it was also presented to the GTC and GMC for review and was subject to consultation from the different institutions concerned, both within and external to the MEEF.

A geomatics laboratory will be set up and housed within the BNC REDD+. This laboratory will ensure the analysis of satellite images and the production of the different maps needed to calculate the activity data. The information on the national forest inventory will be provided by the DVRF and the REDD+ project managers. The university/research institution, the organizations associated with the MEEF and the geomatics laboratory will collaborate for technical support and to exchange spatial data.

To this end, a ER-P monitoring report will be drafted by the BNC REDD+ and will undergo external verification. The BNCCC is responsible for the GHG inventory and for transmitting the national monitoring report to the UNFCCC.

In order to ensure the implementation of an NFMS, an action plan with the relevant budget will be developed by the end of November 2017 as part of the FRMi study.

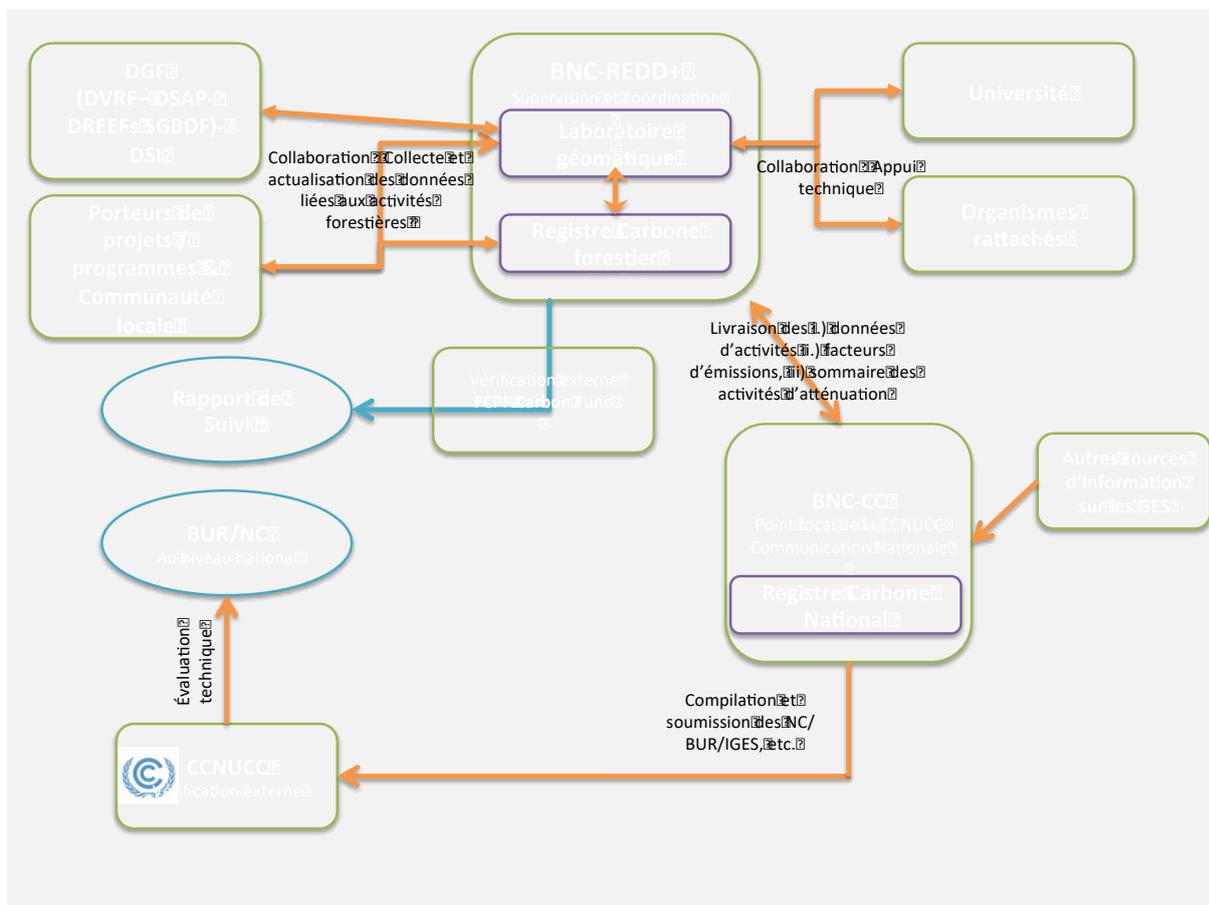


Figure 5: Institutional plan of the MRV process

<sup>17</sup> This document will be available on the BNC-REDD+ website <http://www.bnc-redd.mg/>

<sup>18</sup> This document will be available on the BNC-REDD+ website <http://www.bnc-redd.mg/> after it has been validated.

*Action plan:*

- Establish the action plan and budget for the establishment of a NFMS
- Create the Geomatics Laboratory
- Draft and validate the MRV document

***Subcomponent 4b: Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards***

**Criterion 32: Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues**

Non-carbon aspects and social and environmental issues have been identified through various studies, namely: (i) the establishment of the socio-economic reference condition within the eastern humid forests ecoregion, carried out as part of the PERR-FH project in December 2014; (ii) the analysis of the political economy of deforestation and degradation, carried out in May 2016; (iii) the collection of socio-economic, socio-political, socio-cultural and regulatory reform analysis elements, carried out in December 2016 and (iv) the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of the National REDD+ Strategy of Madagascar, carried out in June 2016. These last three studies were conducted using FCPF funding<sup>19</sup>.

In addition to the benefits resulting from the sale of compensatory carbon credits, all of these studies have analyzed the other advantages that could arise from the REDD+ program. These include improved productivity of agriculture leading to enhance household incomes, food security and health. Forest restoration, reforestation and afforestation are expected to improve water regulation and soil quality to support agricultural production. Other expected benefits include improved land tenure security, the creation of jobs within the different projects, support for the development of alternative economic activities (commerce and tourism, for example), then in the long term, recurring benefits could arise from the improved productivity of the forest landscape following the implementation of sustainable logging practices.

*Action plan:*

- Consider alternative measures for the activities that cause deforestation that generate specific non-carbon benefits at the local level

**Criterion 33: Monitoring, reporting and information sharing**

The non-carbon aspects and safeguarding measures are addressed as part of the SESA (see sub-component 2d and 4b of this document). The different frameworks (ESMF, RPF and PF) listed above provide details of the institutional arrangements and procedures that aim to minimize the social and environmental risks which could be associated with REDD+ activities.

Furthermore, a safeguards information system (SIS) has been developed and involves the stakeholders in its implementation at all levels (local, regional and national). Then, in collaboration with the two consultancies responsible for the SESA and for implementing the SIS as well as with the safeguarding working group (GTS), BNC REDD+ developed a national interpretation of the Cancun safeguards resulting in national standards, which contain 7 principles, 24 criteria and 160 indicators. These indicators are divided into three categories that correspond to the three scales of National REDD+ Strategy implementation, namely:

- Indicators applicable to the national strategy, referred to as "National REDD+ Strategy indicators": these indicators are particularly appropriate for safeguarding on a national scale. The input for these indicators is therefore the responsibility of the BNC REDD+;
- Performance indicators for large REDD+ projects: in accordance with the national strategy, the "large projects" will be implemented on a regional or multi-regional scale. These projects may be based on the "Makira" and "CAZ" pilot projects, or may come under reforestation projects which cover one or more regions. The input for these indicators is therefore the responsibility of the BNC REDD+ and/or the BRC REDD+, based on information coming from the operators, from other bodies holding non-carbon data, from property developers (Communes) and potentially from an independent observer.
- Performance indicators for communal/intercommunal projects (referred to as "performance indicators for communal/intercommunal projects"): projects will be implemented on a communal or

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<sup>19</sup> These documents are available on [http://www.bnc-redd.mg/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&Itemid=104&id=24&lang=fr](http://www.bnc-redd.mg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&Itemid=104&id=24&lang=fr)

intercommunal scale in accordance with the national strategy. The project management for these projects will be provided by an operator who will be selected through an invitation to tender. The BRC REDD+ will ensure the coordination of these projects. The input for these indicators is therefore the responsibility of the BRC REDD+, based on information coming from the operators, from other bodies holding non-carbon data, from property developers (Communes) and potentially from an independent observer.

Equally the principles, criteria and indicators are designed so that:

- (i) the activities relating to the Madagascar REDD+ program are in line with the main national and international reference texts in terms of forest conservation policies and sustainable socio-economic development,
- (ii) the program's governance structure and activities are conducted with transparency and allow the participation of all stakeholders, all while taking into account the issues of gender, rights and traditional knowledge, and finally
- (iii) the carbon and non-carbon benefits actually increase and are reinvested through a transparent, participatory, effective, efficient, non-discriminatory sharing arrangement that pays particular attention to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The SIS includes the zero state; in other words, the baseline situation established at the start time (t<sub>0</sub>) of the indicators to monitor in terms of environmental and social safeguarding in the REDD+ program in Madagascar. This reference state has been essentially developed from information collected from existing REDD+ pilot projects in Madagascar, the Makira project, and the Corridor Ankeniheny Zahamena project (CAZ).

The monitoring results will be shared using the information channels that are most appropriate for each category of stakeholder. Copies of the reports will be submitted both locally and regionally to the commune and district offices. The reports will be made available to national or international stakeholders or carbon credit buyers, as well as to the general public, via the MEEF website <http://www.ecologie.gov.mg/livable/> and the BNC REDD website <http://www.bnc-redd.mg/>. Finally, the Government of Madagascar will report to the UNFCCC using official communication channels every four years.

*Action plan:*

- Finalize and validate the indicators and protocols for monitoring the safeguards information system
- Increase the capacities of the monitoring managers, including collection, processing, analysis and distribution
- Distribute the monitoring results through the selected channels

#### **Criterion 34: Institutional arrangements and capacities**

The institutional mechanism of the Safeguard Information System (SIS) will work as follows. First, by referring to the ESMF, the BNC REDD+ proceeds to *screening* and submits the result to the National Office for the Environment (ONE) which validates it. Depending on the project category, the promoters of each project prepare the safeguard plans in line with the relevant safeguards frameworks, implements them and prepares periodic reports on the implementation of REDD+ activities and monitoring of safeguard measures. These reports are submitted to the regional REDD+ Platform (PFR) and REDD+ regional coordination bureau (BRC REDD+) for analysis and possible comments and suggestions for improvement by project proponent.

The ONE (if the project requires an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment - ESIA) or sectoral Ministry concerned (if the project requires no ESIA) coordinates the monitoring and evaluation through an ad hoc technical assessment committee (in compliance with the Decree on making investment compatible with the environment - MECIE). The approved report will be subsequently sent by BRC REDD+ to the PFN REDD+ and BNC REDD+. These two bodies will also be able to ask an independent body to verify the reports with the beneficiaries of the project or REDD+ activities. On the basis of the monitoring and evaluation reports, BNC REDD+ gives an approval to the promoter in the case of positive assessment, or, as appropriate, makes recommendations to promoters to undertake corrective actions.

*Action plan:*

- Finalize and validate the Protocol (Guide) that clarifies the mandates and roles of the different entities responsible for monitoring non-carbon aspects and safeguards

- Develop the Charter of Responsibilities as a result of the Protocol
- Strengthen monitoring capabilities

#### 4. THE R-PACKAGE PARTICIPATORY REVIEW PROCESS

The review of the R-Package in Madagascar was conducted in a participatory, inclusive and transparent way. A methodology note was developed by BNC REDD+ to explain the process's objectives, methodology, target participants, the program and the expected results. This methodology note was improved and validated by the REDD+ National Platform during its meeting on May 3-5 2017.

The methodology note and draft 1.0 of the R-Package were published and disseminated to all stakeholders invited to the different consultation workshops. Table 1 provides the program for the consultation workshops.

Level	Location	Date	Typology of Participants	M	F	Total
National	Antananarivo	May 9	CSO, VOI	7	8	15
National	Antananarivo	May 10	Technical and financial partners (TFP), private sector, technical groups (safeguards and methodology)	7	9	16
National	Antananarivo	May 11	Ministries, Regions, Prefectures	7	9	16
Regional - Analanjirofo	Fénérive Est	May 16	CSO, VOI	17	1	18
Regional - Analanjirofo	Fénérive Est	May 17	REDD+ Regional Platform	17	2	19
Regional - Atsinanana	Toamasina	May 16	CSO, VOI			
Regional - Atsinanana	Toamasina	May 17	REDD+ Regional Platform			
Regional - Sofia	Atsohihy	May 23	CSO, VOI	17	7	24
Regional - Sofia	Atsohihy	May 24	REDD+ Regional Platform	15	5	20
Regional - Alaotra Mangoro	Moramanga	May 23	CSO, VOI	16	5	21
Regional - Alaotra Mangoro	Moramanga	May 24	REDD+ Regional Platform	13	5	18
Regional - SAVA	Sambava	May 30	CSO, VOI			
Regional - SAVA	Sambava	May 31	REDD+ Regional Platform			
			<b>Total people consulted</b>			
National	Moramanga	June 21-23	REDD+ National Platform, RRP, CSOs and regional VOIs	25	10	35

Table 1. Workshop program for consultations on the R-Package

BIODEV consultants, a neutral organization that did not participate in the preparation for REDD+, led the workshops to encourage participants to speak freely. BIODEV and BNC REDD+ prepared a simplified version of the consultation materials, adapted to the context of the country in French and Malagasy versions, with diagnostic questions based on the criteria and diagnostic questions of the [evaluation framework of the FCPF's preparation for REDD+](#).

During each consultation workshop, BNC REDD+ team members responsible for the various aspects of the readiness process presented the progress for each component and were available during the discussions to provide additional information and answer questions. After a plenary discussion guided by BIODEV to identify the strengths, weaknesses and actions to be undertaken in the future, each participant gave his/her own assessment of the progress for each evaluation criterion using the scoring system in Figure 6. The discussions were held in Malagasy to facilitate participation by all.

The scores given by all participants at the workshop were compiled into an average score for each evaluation criterion and presented to the participants at the end of the workshop. Although they participated in the same workshop, the scores given by CSOs representatives were separated from those of VOI representatives to take into account the different perspectives of these groups. A report from each workshop describes the process, the list of participants, the average scores, and the strengths, weaknesses and actions to be undertaken as expressed by participants for each evaluation criterion. The score consolidation methodology and consolidated scores from each workshop are presented in Appendix 2.

The consolidation of the results was validated by the participants of a national workshop held in Moramanga on June 21-22 with members of the national REDD+ platform and representatives of PFRs, CSOs and VOIs who participated in the regional consultation workshops (see report of the national workshop).

English	Malagasy	Emoticon
Good progress	Misy fandrosoana tsara azo tsapain-tanana	
Good progress but more effort required	Ezaka mandroso fa mbola mila fanatsarana sy fanampiana	
More effort required	Mbola mila ezaka lehibe	
No progress	Tsy misy fivoarana	

Figure 6 Guide for scoring by evaluation criteria

## 5. RESULTS OF THE R-PACKAGE PARTICIPATORY REVIEW

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Table 2 below shows the strengths, weaknesses and consolidated recommendations of the stakeholders who participated in the thirteen consultation workshops at the national and regional levels. Although the review was focused on the readiness phase, the recommendations are relevant to both the readiness phase and the implementation phase. This consolidated version was prepared by BNC REDD+ based on the reports of each workshop prepared by BIODEV, a facilitation team, and was discussed, improved and validated by the participants of the national workshop held June 21-23 2017 in Moramanga. Table 2 also presents Madagascar's final scoring for each criterion (calculated using the methodology presented in Appendix 2).

The Action Plan in Table 2 was presented by officials of BNC REDD+ to national workshop participants then refined through discussions and agreed by the all participants at the workshop. This action plan is presented in the table under two headings: actions to be undertaken during **Preparation for REDD+** with the financing of the FCPF readiness fund until December 2018, and actions to be taken for the implementation of the **ERP** emissions reduction program, which will be dependent on the search for funding for this program.

In summary, overall for all the stakeholders, Madagascar has made good progress, but some efforts remain to be made to consolidate the progress. For only two criteria from among the 34, the improvements required are considered more significant: (i) feedback to stakeholders (criterion 10), and (ii) development of the national REDD+ registry and REDD+ activity monitoring system (criterion 22).

The recommendations were discussed in depth at each workshop including at the national validation workshop. Among those that involved most discussing are:

- Component 1: Organization of preparation and consultation
  - Operationalize the BRC-REDD+ as soon as possible
  - Create SLCs (in the municipalities which do not yet have them) and strengthen the place of VOIs (forest-dependent) in the operationalization of these local coordination structures.
  - Clarify the roles and responsibilities of all institutions through development of guidelines before implementation.
  - Ensure effective and consistent communications (especially for the local level), and ensure effective and timely feedback to stakeholders after consultations.
- Component 2: Preparation of the REDD+ strategy
  - Strengthen multisectoral integration (decision-making, coordination, spatialization) on a priority basis, and take migration into account.
  - Secure equity (through legal texts) within the revenue sharing mechanism and the management of carbon related revenues.
  - Place particular emphasis on finding effective alternative activities to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.
  - Promote the prioritization of activities at the local level, before review by regional decision-makers, who will ensure consistency with the national REDD+ strategy and its adaptation at the regional level.
- Component 3: Reference emissions level
  - Capitalize on the many past experiences and existing information available in Madagascar.
- Component 4: Forest monitoring systems and safeguard measures
  - Involve stakeholders more strongly in the monitoring system.

Exchanges between stakeholders and members of the BNC REDD+ team in these workshops have provided important opportunities to strengthen mutual understanding, to refine the action plan for REDD+ readiness and to promote the ownership and collaboration that are crucial to the success of REDD+ in Madagascar.

Table 2. Compilation of the recommendations of the R-Package participatory review in Madagascar

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
<b>Component 1. Organization of preparation and consultation</b>				
<b>1a. National REDD+ management arrangements</b>				
<b>Criterion 1. Accountability and transparency</b> - Do REDD+ institutions operate in a non-directive, accountable and transparent manner?				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SLC has significant responsibility which will be to prioritize activities, and to provide guidance to municipalities or Regions</li> <li>Civil society is currently being structured (with the support of the BNC) in REDD+ CSOs to be a large opposition structure within REDD+</li> <li>Discussions on REDD+ are very animated in some areas, thanks to the series of consultations and the accountability of local authorities.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication and discussions are limited to managers and technicians and do not sufficiently include civil society and local communities.</li> <li>Subjectivity can affect decision-makers and members of the SLC, and there may also be a risk of conflicts of interest, abuses and nepotism with project holders. The risk of politicization of the REDD+ Program should not be discounted.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve internal communication platforms, for example by keeping to the deadline set for issuing the minutes of all meetings.</li> <li>There should be a link between REDD+ CSOs at the regional level, at the national level and especially VOIs before the National REDD+ Platform meeting, to have the same idea, same voice</li> <li>Strengthening the implementation, structuring and operationalization of the SLC is paramount in the municipalities where the REDD+ program will be by prioritizing the participation of civil society, women and young people</li> <li>Ensure the transparency of the SLC implementation, including the election of its members</li> <li>Strengthen communication activities with municipalities, including with the SLC as soon as they become operational</li> <li>Support municipalities in the implementation of SLC because there are still a few municipalities without SLC, and strengthen the capacity of the SLC related to REDD+.</li> </ol>	<p>2.29</p>	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the functioning and strengthening of capacity of REDD+ institutions: BNCR, BRCR, NFP, PFR, REDD+ CSO (national and 5 ERP regions and 4 Western regions)</li> <li>Support for creating REDD+ CSOs, BRCR and COPIL</li> <li>Establish a network for ongoing exchange between national and regional CSOs</li> </ol> <p><b>ER-P</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure DREEF/BRC operationalization and PAT appointment or hiring</li> <li>Support the creation and operationalization of SLCs in non-PADAP areas</li> <li>Support the fight against corruption in the Administration at all levels</li> <li>Strengthen the capacity of VOIs and the VOI federations</li> </ol>
<b>Criterion 2. Operational mandate and budget</b> - Are the mandates of REDD + institutions clear and are budgets sufficient, predictable and sustainable?				

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is important to provide further explanation of the budget, such as the use of the budget, the sharing arrangements of the provisional budget and receipts of payments.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure compliance of the main missions of all institutions including the SLC (noting that the SLC is a consultative structure and not one of execution).</li> <li>2. Distinguish between the municipalities and the SLCs, with a clear separation of responsibilities between these two local structures and the links between their respective interventions. Prevent the SLC becoming a force of opposition to the Mayor.</li> <li>3. It is proposed that an operational guide for the treatment of the REDD+ by the SLC be formalized, per the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project holders (VOIs, private, national or regional program, etc.) prepare their initiatives in advance. Specific support is expected for grassroots communities;</li> <li>• The SLC meetings for REDD+ are specific;</li> <li>• All project promoters are invited to these meetings, and "participate in arbitration decisions".</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	1.77.	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finalize the design and disseminate the institutional arrangements for the implementation of REDD+ to all stakeholders</li> <li>2. share the budget and the work plan for the preparatory phase on the website</li> <li>3. Develop a guide providing clarification of the roles of those involved in accordance with institutional arrangements</li> </ol>
<p><b>Criterion 3. Multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms and intersectoral collaboration</b> - Are the REDD+ institutions effective in coordinating REDD+ activities across the various sectors?</p>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Existence of planning for strengthening the capacity of regional structures (platforms and the BRCs)</li> <li>2. Formalization of PFR implementation based on legal frameworks</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of clear linkages or communication channel (information or working relationship) between the NFP and PFR.</li> <li>2. There is chance that decisions makers within government departments/agencies will ignore discussions within the platforms.</li> <li>3. Certain topics to be discussed during meetings may require more technical information</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create greater consistency and communication between the NFP and the PFRs</li> <li>2. Systematic sharing of the reports of platform meetings so that members of the Platform can report to their decision-making line manager and to those they represent.</li> <li>3. Integrate the specific cells or services in government departments directly concerned with the subjects to be discussed by the NFP and PFRs</li> </ol>	2.03	<p><b>REDD+ preparation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthen the coordination and communication between NFP and PFRs, and within the sectors concerned</li> <li>2. Ensure sharing of information among all REDD+ institutions at all levels</li> <li>3. Continue developing links with agriculture sector as</li> </ol>

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
				part of REDD+ planning, as agriculture is a key driver
<b>Criterion 4. Technical supervision capacity</b> - Are the REDD+ institutions effective in the multi-sector supervision of REDD+ activities?				
		1. Strengthen capacity of municipalities (through the Executive Office of the Mayor) to provide the monitoring assigned to the municipalities	2.00	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> 1. Strengthen capacity of BRCs  <b>ER-P</b> 2. Strengthen the capacity of municipalities to provide monitoring of REDD+ activities
<b>Criterion 5. Fund management capacity</b> - Do the REDD+ institutions have effective, efficient and transparent budgetary management (including coordination with other partners)?				
		1. Examine the most effective approaches to ensure a proper financial audit	1.79.	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> 1. Establish financial and administrative procedure manuals for all REDD+ bodies
<b>Criterion 6. Mechanism for information feedback and grievances</b> - Is there a functional mechanism for information feedback and grievances? Are there satisfactory resources and expertise? Are the actors informed of the mechanism and do they have access to it? Is the mechanism effective?				
1. The use of already existing structures as a basis for a grievance and feedback redress mechanism seems to be a good thing, especially for the local population because it is already familiar with this system and the only thing left to do is improve its effectiveness. 2. DINA remains the most effective complaint management mechanism at the local level. Existence of DINABEs in some regions that already form a mechanism to be reinforced 3. The process of developing the mechanism is done in a participatory	1. The degree of functionality of this mechanism and its level of accessibility are not yet sufficiently clear. 2. The characteristics of the complainants and the recipients of complaints are not yet distinct. As an example, certain details have not yet been filled in, such as the place for filing complaints: DREEF, cantonment, another body, etc. 1. One of the concerns about this mechanism is the size of the financial burdens that it requires	1. Enhance the emphasis on conflict resolution at the local level 2. The contribution of traditional authorities is very much encouraged, because it is very useful for the resolution of local problems. 3. Ensure that complaints related to serious crimes or with regional implications, even if they have been made at the local level, will be brought before higher courts or institutions 4. Ensure that the application of the mechanism does not cause financial burdens to complainants 5. The mechanisms to be developed should have a general framework and a specific framework	1.74.	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> 1. Finalize and validate the proposed institutional arrangements and guide for the FGRm 2. Establish a complaints management system 3. Strengthen the capabilities of the complaints managers  <b>ER-P</b> 4. Ensure the operationalization of the FGRM down to the

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
<p>and transparent manner. The actors have fully participated in the sessions.</p> <p>4. The scale of intervention of the proposed mechanism currently extends from the Region-District-Municipality level as far down as the fokontany (village) level</p>	<p>2. The fear and respect for social relationships are still a block for applying DINA (a form of MGP) within the VOIs</p>	<p>according to differences in local contexts and the efficiency found in the Regions</p> <p>6. The ToR for each party should be clear in order to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism, better empower all stakeholders in the FGRM and strengthen the experiences between the VOIs and the administration.</p> <p>7. Legal action should always be considered as a last resort. Highlight the stages of the MGP: negotiation, mediation, conciliation and arbitration</p> <p>8. VOIs from the Union and the Federation of VOIs really need their capabilities strengthened for a better application of DINA, and their support and encouragement to develop and accredit DINA.</p> <p>9. The lowest level proposed is the municipality.</p>		<p>local level in areas affected by REDD+ activities</p>
<b>1b. Consultation, participation and awareness</b>				
<b>Criterion 7. Participation and commitment of major stakeholders</b> - Do the mechanisms for participation ensure full, effective and consistent stakeholder participation? Are marginalized groups such as young women and forest-dependent local people involved? Is the participation of forest-dependent local communities assured?				
<p>1. The structures put in place by BNC REDD+ allow the participation of all stakeholders, even vulnerable and marginalized groups who are represented by organizations from civil society.</p> <p>2. The integration of the members of VOI federations in regional and national platforms is important for the voice of the local people.</p> <p>3. The participation of local communities is satisfactory, with a high turnout and proper consideration of female voices.</p>	<p>1. Local people and VOIs are sparsely represented in meetings.</p> <p>2. Despite the regional consultations, it was found that the approaches at the local level are not sufficient.</p> <p>3. The VOIs should be able to represent the rural population but their daily activities, their isolation and accessibility often cause them not to be available to participate in meetings.</p> <p>4. Usually, the representatives "at the local level", do not report back to local people.</p> <p>5. The participation of young people and vulnerable groups is not as explicit in the statistics as it is for</p>	<p>1. To compensate for the change of representatives who attend meetings, member structures should communicate and discuss relevant information</p> <p>2. A system should be implemented to closely track the participation and engagement of vulnerable groups and young people in the rest of the program's activities.</p> <p>3. To ensure the effective participation of local communities, it would be better to use local contacts or mediators in consultations and field studies or during awareness sessions.</p> <p>4. Implementation of SLCs as early as possible</p> <p>5. The integration of the villagers who live in the interior in the vicinity of the forest in SLCs</p> <p>6. Involve a few elected representatives in platforms</p> <p>7. For the formalization of the platform, it is advisable to adopt procedural rules.</p>	<p>1.93.</p>	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+?</b></p> <p>1. Support the participation and interaction with women's associations</p> <p>2. Definition of the criteria for the identification of vulnerable groups</p> <p><b>ER-P</b></p> <p>1. Operationalize the SLC with the participation of civil society, women, young people and representatives of people in and around forests</p> <p>2. Strengthen the position that the VOI must occupy in the SLC</p>

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
	<p>women. This does not mean that young people have not been considered in consultation and participation.</p>	<p>8. Strengthen the participation and the involvement of stakeholders from the private sector, including loggers and/or mine operators            9. Support the participation of the STDs and CTDs            10. Improve the relationships and interactions between the VOI, the fokontany and local communities (fokonolona)</p>		<p>3. Support full representation and full integration of local communities (outside VOIs) in decision-making</p>
<p><b>Criterion 8. Consultation Process</b> - Are consultation processes clear, representative and transparent at the national, regional and local levels? Are the participants from different stakeholder categories self-selected? Have the institutions and decision-making processes of the local populations been capitalized upon to enrich the consultations and enhance participation? Is gender taken into account in the dialog?</p>				
<p>1. The process and method of consultation are varied according to the category of stakeholders to be consulted.            2. The use of the Malagasy language in all meetings has allowed those attending to express themselves openly and efficiently.            3. Regional consultations have been carried out on numerous occasions.</p>	<p>1. On occasion the planning of meetings between consultants and local populations is not respected by the consultants. So, there is a requirement for communities to comply with the visitors' program, which might not suit them.            2. There are doubts about the quality of village consultations. Two issues are raised: (1) the methodological approaches and the technical capacity of consultants; and (2) the sincerity of responses from local communities.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the communities reliant on the forest are properly represented in any consultations.            2. Invitations must be received largely in advance to optimize and ensure the full participation of stakeholders. Consider the remoteness and accessibility of stakeholders for the logistics and travel to consultation meetings.            3. The forms of consultation in local dialect are very much encouraged, both during the workshops and during focus groups with local communities            4. It is best to work with local contacts, including STDs for better quality information to be collected.</p>	<p>1.92.</p>	<p><b>3. Preparation for REDD+</b>            1. Continue regular consultations with NFPs, PFRs and CSOs            2. Prioritize national and local expertise, especially for consultations</p>
<p><b>Criterion 9. Distribution of information and access to information</b> - Does the distribution and disclosure of information take place in a timely and transparent manner (e.g. on REDD + strategic options, reference level and monitoring systems, etc.)? Is the information available to stakeholders in a format and language they understand? Are the means of communication used to inform stakeholders appropriate, taking into account the cultural context?</p>				
<p>1. The REDD+ website will soon be operational            2. Various means for a widely distributing information have been used            3. Newsletters issued quarterly</p>	<p>1. Communication activities that are currently proposed are likely not to reach local communities.            2. Proposed materials and tools are suitable for large cities with internet connectivity.</p>	<p>1. Organize awareness and outreach sessions for the REDD+ program on local radio and television stations that are most used by villagers.            2. Proposal to use fliers and reiteration of the importance of <i>kabary</i> (to officially communicate the texts)</p>	<p>1.73.</p>	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b>            1. Ensure that the website of BNC REDD+ is updated regularly            2. Finalize, validate and implement the national</p>

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
<p>4. Communications campaigns and press releases are already planned for all target audiences and at several levels: local, regional and national.</p> <p>5. Meetings are already excellent information tools with the actors directly involved in the REDD+ program.</p> <p>6. The training of journalists on the REDD+ program is scheduled</p> <p>7. REDD+ ACADEMY training session was an initiative in Antananarivo, which could be replicated in the Regions. It consists of training of trainers for the REDD+ program.</p>	<p>3. Some members of the platform do not announce their membership structures to other members. In this sense, there is not the same level of information for all actors.</p> <p>4. Documents are not always shared</p> <p>5. There are many technical terms, while grassroots communities do not yet sufficiently understand the REDD+ program.</p>	<p>3. Develop summary documents for research reports and the minutes of meetings, for decision-makers and other stakeholders including regional and local structures</p> <p>4. Share the results of the research already available on the website</p> <p>5. So that Municipalities and Districts that do not have access to the internet can follow the development of the program, it would be preferable to have physical versions of the reports (research, workshops, etc.) that are to be distributed and/or made available in a given location.</p> <p>6. Translate documents and technical terms into Malagasy and if possible into the local dialect for a better understanding by rural people.</p> <p>7. Distribute information and raise awareness through community meetings, traditional speech (kabary), traditional songs (vako-drazana), local festivities and market days, newspapers (for targeted populations)</p>		<p>REDD+ communication strategy</p> <p>3. Ensure a variety of methods of communication that are targeted for proper understanding of each stakeholder group</p> <p>4. Establish a partnership with the government departments in charge of communication and education</p> <p>5. Support intersectoral communication and networking</p> <p><b>ER-P</b></p> <p>6. Distribute relevant information to local populations in the concerned municipalities using methods and dialect suitable for the environment</p>
<b>Criterion 10. Use and Disclosure of Consultation Results</b> - Are the results of consultations integrated (incorporated, distributed, disclosed and accounted for) into management arrangements?				
<p>1. The recommendation on feedback from the results of consultations was taken into account through the reports being put on BNC REDD+ website.</p>	<p>1. The feedback and results of the studies carried out with local communities have not yet been reported</p>	<p>1. Feedback from local people is important</p> <p>2. Consultation reports should be sent to all present without exception</p> <p>3. Using the same form of communication for consultations (data collection) as well as for the disclosure of information</p>	1.49	<p><b>(in addition to those in Criterion No. 9)</b></p> <p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b></p> <p>1. Upload the consultation reports to the website</p> <p>2. Send minutes and reports of meetings to all guests</p> <p>3. Distribute summaries of studies and consultations</p>

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
				(BRC office, regions, districts, municipalities, SLCs, libraries)

## Component 2. Preparation of the REDD+ strategy

### 2a. Assessment of land use, drivers of change in the allocation of land, forest laws, policies and governance

**Criterion 11. Assessment and Analysis** - Does the work include: An analysis of recent changes in land use? An analysis of the problems associated with land tenure systems and the registration of property titles, rights to natural resources (including traditional and customary)? An analysis of forest laws, policies and governance?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There have been several studies for assessment and analysis.</li> <li>2. Policy options were identified during the development of the R-PP preparation document in 2014. They are now improved, updated and adapted to the current situation.</li> <li>3. Public consultations have served well for the development of the national strategy and the determination of the root causes of deforestation and forest degradation, as well as activities that will resolve these problems.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not all studies are yet complete. Studies on mangrove forests, and dry and spiny forests are not yet complete, but are planned as part of the additional funding. On the other hand, research on these types of forest may be available and usable from institutions and organizations that work in these areas. The consolidation of this data may be considered</li> <li>2. The <i>Dahalo</i> phenomenon (bandits) is not mentioned or not explained in these studies. However, the <i>Dahalo</i> use fires to cover their tracks. They are a major factor for deforestation and the degradation of forests (the case in the SOFIA Region)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make use of all studies carried out to move forward in developing the national REDD+ strategy</li> <li>2. The national REDD+ strategy should have action plans on a national scale, and not only activities in Eastern areas</li> <li>3. Carry out analyses on the impact of migration and demography on deforestation</li> </ol>	2.12	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organize information sessions for the presentation and collection of feedback of the main elements of the national strategy</li> <li>2. Ensure the incorporation of the migration aspect in the development of REDD+ national strategy</li> <li>3. Develop an action plan for the implementation of the SN REDD</li> </ol>
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**Criterion 12. Ranking of direct and indirect drivers for forest development** - Has the analysis been used to establish the order of the drivers that need to be addressed by the programs and policies of the REDD+ Strategy? Did the analysis examine the main obstacles to the activities of maintaining the forests (carbon stocks)?

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
<p>1. The ranking of favorable and unfavorable, direct and indirect elements, and obstacles to forest development, reflects the ideas of the regional stakeholders consulted</p>			2.27	Preparation for REDD+
<p><b>Criterion 13. Links between these positive/negative elements and REDD + activities</b> - What is there to indicate that the systematic links between the drivers of the REDD+ activities have been identified?</p>				
	<p>1. Activities that could be effective in areas other than in the East are not yet well identified.</p> <p>2. The integration of land security and the landscape approach in the activities still somewhat unclear.</p>	<p>1. The multisectoral integration of the main sectors of production in Madagascar is necessary, namely the agricultural sector (agriculture and livestock), fishing, energy and forestry. This integration goes further, to common and frequent consultations for a linkage between strategic areas and activity guidelines at all levels (from the national to local). This happens through the development of a scheme that incorporates all of the factors of production. (Observation: through consultation with NFP and PFRs)</p> <p>2. Focus on alternative solutions that reduce the causes of deforestation and forest degradation. The example of improved stoves and the production of ethanol can serve as an example</p> <p>3. Focus on reforestation with an incentive such as the green prize (on a large scale and with the private sector)</p>	2.18	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b></p> <p>1. Improve the involvement of all sectors in developing the SN REDD.</p> <p><b>ER-P</b></p> <p>2. Support NTFP (non-timber forest product) value chains and cash crops</p>
<p><b>Criterion 14. Action plans to take into account the rights to natural resources, land tenure systems and governance.</b> Do the actions plans define the concrete steps and resources required? (Such as actions to make progress in the short, medium and long term on issues of land ownership, rights to natural resources, livelihoods and governance in the regions prioritized by the REDD+ programs)</p>				

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Action plans to take into account the rights to natural resources, land tenure systems and governance are all included in the strategic options and activities.</li> <li>2. The next round of establishing action plans that enables the securing of land tenure of reforestation plots is a very good initiative.</li> <li>3. Land use planning tools will also be used to facilitate land security.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There are no documents specified as "action plans", but the content that will form an integral part of this plan is already available.</li> <li>2. There is no security action for VOIs</li> <li>3. The rationale behind TGRNs and regulations governing deforestation and degradation is poorly understood by communities, especially non-VOI communities, "they believe that forests outside of PAs and TGRNs are allowed to be exploited at will, while others think that these forests were passed on to them from their ancestors, so why have we now transferred their management? "</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inter-sectoral solutions (with Land Use Planning and Land Management) need to be found in order to mitigate the process of securing land in protected areas and forested zones.</li> <li>2. Local authorities must have sufficient capacity and competence to take account of dangerous migrations in their zones.</li> <li>3. Prioritize the securing of sensitive zones in order to better protect them</li> <li>4. Support cities in the development of a Local Land Use Plan (PLOF) and Land Management Plan (SAC).</li> <li>5. Lean on BIF for increased governance and actions that are beneficial for REDD+</li> </ol>	<p>1.81.</p>	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b></p> <p><b>ER-P</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Integrate the ER-P into the regional implementation strategy</li> <li>2. Support the development of SACs and SRATs in ER-P zones</li> <li>3. Support cities in the establishment of a BIF or land office, the drafting of a Local Land Use Plan (PLOF) and Land Management Plan (SAC), inclusive of mangroves</li> <li>4. Establish a database for improved inter-sectoral coordination to create an understanding that REDD+ areas are truly protected, for a forestry status</li> <li>5. Strengthen the close collaboration between the Ministries of Forestry and Mepate (areas and topography) to secure the zones affected by REDD+ (transitional measure before SRAT and SAC, in the form of an inter-sectoral agreement)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Criterion 15. Impact on forest laws and policies.</b> Does the assessment highlight the implications of the implementation of the strategic options on forest laws and policies in the long term?</p>				

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Forestry Code has now been drafted (but not yet validated), and incorporates REDD+. This is precisely to lead to coordinated actions between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Environment.</li> <li>The aim is, rather, to integrate REDD+ into existing legislation, which is what it already does in practice (with the POLFOR Forestry Policy).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued lack of texts governing REDD+, especially as regards carbon taxation, hence of the purpose of all of the actions. (sharing of benefits)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of the forestry code</li> <li>Preparation of draft decrees implementing laws on REDD+</li> </ol>	1.76.	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the finalization of the forestry law and forestry code, and propose implementing provisions on REDD+: carbon taxation, carbon law, benefit sharing, institutional arrangements, financial arrangements and grievance management</li> </ol>
<b>2b. Strategic REDD+ options</b>				
<b>Criterion 16. Selection and prioritization of strategic options for REDD+</b> - Has there been a participatory and transparent prioritization of the strategic options? (prioritized on the basis of an in-depth assessment of the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation, of obstacles to the valorization of forests and/or in function of other factors). Has the emissions reduction potential of the activities been estimated, and in what way has it informed the development of the REDD+ strategy?				
			2.27	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b>
<b>Criterion 17. Feasibility study</b> - Have the strategic REDD+ options been assessed and prioritized according to their social, environmental and political feasibility, risks and a cost-benefit analysis?				
			2.16	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b>
<b>Criterion 18. Impacts of the strategic options on the sectoral policies in force</b> - Have major discrepancies been identified between the strategic REDD+ options and the policies or programs of other sectors associated with the forest sector (such as agriculture and transport)? Is there an approved procedure for remedying discrepancies? Do the strategic elements contribute to development objectives and mobilize the engagement of communities?				
			1.95.	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b>
<b>2c. Implementation framework</b>				
<b>Criterion 19. Adoption and application of laws and regulations.</b> Have laws and/or regulations associated with the REDD+ activities and programs been adopted? Are they applied?				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are already several conventions that are worth capitalizing on.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From a general point of view, in Madagascar it is difficult to both put into practice and apply the regulatory framework and</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place responsibility on each sector and ministry concerned, through their management of the environment</li> </ol>	1.68.	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> See action criterion 15

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
	implementation framework that has been well developed.	2. Consideration and study on a potential revision of the Decree of 2012-690 on the procedures for approving carbon projects, setting up and management of the national carbon registry in Madagascar with a reform instead of a revision of texts and regulations on carbon		
<b>Criterion 20. Implementation guidelines.</b> Does the implementation framework define carbon rights, the benefit-sharing arrangements, the REDD+ financing modalities, the official pilot project approval procedures and the grievance mechanisms?				
1. There are studies supported by the UN REDD program in 2015, which provide information and drive reflections on the national REDD+ strategy and carbon law. An example is the legal framework analysis carried out on the TAMS Project in 2008, which referred to the carbon law in the context of deforestation.		1. Proposal to create a REDD+ FUND to ensure that the Carbon Fund does not have a "public fund" status, i.e. is subject to approval within finance law	1.71.	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize the benefit-sharing mechanism, the REDD+ funding arrangements, the official procedures for the approval of pilot schemes, and the complaints/appeals mechanism</li> <li>Draft directives to obtain FPIC</li> </ol>
<b>Criterion 21. Benefit-sharing arrangement.</b> What is there to indicate that the benefit-sharing arrangements are transparent?				
1. The principles and expectations were identified by using a participatory and transparent approach.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The details of the Income Sharing Mechanism, including the legal framework governing the mechanism, are yet to be developed</li> <li>The determining criteria for the sharing of carbon revenues is not yet defined. It is still necessary to define what is meant by "performance" if this is to be the determining criterion of benefit sharing.</li> <li>There is a concern that consultations on the allocation framework will be ignored by donors as well as other actors, who</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To align benefit-sharing mechanisms within well-developed regulatory framework.</li> <li>Prevent the risk that Carbon Funds will be allocated in the Treasury, in which case it will be very difficult to allocate all of the funds to the Ministry of the Environment or to a specific fund.</li> <li>The Carbon Fund must be largely dedicated to actions that maintain forestry coverage.</li> <li>Prioritize activities from local levels to be brought before regional decision-makers.</li> <li>Properly plan activities and budgets allocated prior to the distribution of carbon revenues</li> <li>In the end, the benefit-sharing mechanism must clearly and transparently explain the management of the funds as well as the budgetary distribution.</li> </ol>	1.62.	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop proposals and present them at the PFN and PFR levels</li> <li>Create a specific and independent REDD+ fund</li> </ol>

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
	<p>may have their own carbon revenue allocation (such as is the case with CAZ and the World Bank)</p> <p>4. At present, it is difficult to assess the transparency and fairness of the benefit-sharing mechanism.</p>	<p>7. Beforehand, this method of distribution must obtain the approval and acceptance of all of the actors concerned.</p> <p>8. The BNC-REDD+ must ensure that the technical and financial audits of the carbon fund are properly performed.</p> <p>9. Consider a bonus or premium for local authorities or Fokontany who have well-accomplished the REDD+ activities, following an objective and independent evaluation.</p> <p>10. Ensure the transparency of percentages assigned to cities, VOIs, Fkt, regions</p> <p>11. Study the implementation of penalties in exchange of rewards. Pecuniary penalties should be considered for project holders who have not succeeded in maintaining the performance indicators.</p>		
<p><b>Criterion 22. National REDD+ registry and REDD+ activity monitoring system.</b> Is there a national geo-referenced system or operational registry which brings together all information on the national and sub-national REDD+ programs and projects? Does it offer public access to information on REDD+?</p>				
			1.29	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b></p> <p>1. Design and operationalize a forestry carbon registry</p>
<p><b>2d. Social and environmental impacts</b></p>				
<p><b>Criterion 23. Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards.</b> Were issues related to social and environmental safeguards identified in the studies/analyzes and strategy consultations?</p>				
<p>1. The method used to develop the SESA (Public consultation, regional and national workshops) makes it possible to identify all of the types of impacts as well as the proposed solutions.</p> <p>2. Village-based and territorial community consultations were conducted as part of environmental and social studies.</p>			2.15	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b></p> <p>1. Finalize and validate the ESMFs (Environmental and Social Management Framework), RPF (Resettlement Policy Framework) and PF (Process Framework)</p>

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
<p>3. The community consultation process for SESA respected the gender approach, participation and representativeness of participants</p> <p>4. The customs and practices that should strengthen the means of communication <b>have already been taken into account in the SESA</b></p>				
<p><b>Criterion 24. The design of the REDD+ strategy based on impact.</b> Was consideration given to the results of the SESA and any social and environmental impacts in prioritizing and defining the strategic REDD+ options?</p>				
<p>1. The options and strategic sub-options in the RPP have been improved upon and updated in relation to the current situation.</p>	<p>1. Direct impacts have been identified, but indirect risks such as compensation for damages arising from the application of this program have not been further investigated</p>	<p>1. Include impact studies on behavior change with respect to the benefits of REDD+ or vice versa</p>	1.90.	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b></p> <p>1. Finalize the safeguard information system plan, including REDD+ impact monitoring</p>
<p><b>Criterion 25. Environmental and Social Management Framework.</b> Is the ESMF in place and does it manage any environmental and social risks and effects associated with the REDD+ activities?</p>				
<p>1. Drafts and proposals on environmental and social management framework have been prepared. In order to do so, it is important to determine the eligibility criteria for indigenous peoples (persons affected by the project) and clearly distinguish the compensation for indigenous peoples</p> <p>2. The adoption of the FPIC (Free and Informed Consent) approach is very useful, insofar as it allows for the full integration of local communities in the implementation of the sub-project financed by the carbon fund.</p> <p>3. The FPIC approach is advantageous, and therefore appreciated in such that: It is the direct beneficiaries who issue their opinions or objections about the activity to be implemented; it is a</p>	<p>1. Need for a system for monitoring the application of the ESMF</p> <p>2. The ESMF is still in the process of being validated.</p> <p>3. Experience has shown that the local populations concerned do not openly express themselves during the process of preparing the framework documents. In these circumstances, they tend not to object to theoretical proposals, but when it comes to applying them, difficulties arise in their application.</p>	<p>1. Specify the types of REDD + projects subject to EIS and ER-P</p> <p>2. Define criteria for identifying indigenous populations</p> <p>3. Ensure that compensation effectively reaches indigenous populations (identified and confirmed) in order to avoid conflicts between local populations and the Forestry Agencies in a functional context</p> <p>4. We suggest a more practical analysis as well as measures for the FPIC approach for local communities.</p> <p>5. Prohibitions on the use of forestry resources for the REDD+ program should be clear to communities, particularly indigenous peoples, in the Process Framework</p> <p>6. The FPIC should be obtained in the presence of the competent state authorities, following the example of the State Representative by</p>	2.01	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b></p> <p>1. Finalize and validate framework</p> <p>2. Ensure the reinforcement of capacities for their operationalization</p> <p>3. Develop and validate the FPIC guidelines and the implementation of framework (already in Criterion No. 20)</p>

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
<p>decision that can involve a whole community and not minority individuals; A FPIC is done for each activity, but does not apply to an overall project;</p>		<p>community level(Head of Fokontany, District Head, Prefect of the Region, Mayor, etc.)</p>		

### 3. Reference emission levels/reference levels

**Criterion 26. Demonstration of the method.** Is the methodology clearly documented? If additional data are required, is there a plan for additional measurements?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The carbon inventory for the Eastern Humid Forest was conducted in 2016, in 2017 for the Western eco-region, and in 2018 will be done for the mangrove and spiny forest eco-regions</li> <li>All of the UNFCCC recommendations were respected, given the existence of a systematic evaluation (twice a year on the consideration of specific methodological guidelines on the reference scenario)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete data for the Eastern Humid Forest ecoregion is available, but complete national data will be the next objective.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendation to take the analyses and test areas conducted by Blue Ventures in the South West Region and North of Ambanja into account for mangroves</li> </ol>	<p>2.29</p>	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the national FREL (Forest Reference Emissions Level) integrating forest inventory data from the western dry forest eco-region, mangrove forest and spiny forest</li> </ol>
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**Criterion 27. Use of historical data and adaptation to the national context.** Does the NERF take account of the historical data? Do the reasons or convincing data demonstrate that the projected adjustments are credible and defensible? Have data and documents been provided to allow the reconstruction or independent verification of the NERF?

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
			2.14	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> 1. Update the national deforestation analysis with the data for 2016
<b>Criterion 28. Technical feasibility of the methodological approach and compliance with the UNFCCC guidelines and with IPCC recommendations and guidelines.</b> Is the NERF (presented in the readiness package) based on transparent, comprehensive and precise information that is compatible with UNFCCC guidelines and the latest IPCC guidance and guidelines? Will it be possible for the IPCC to perform a technical assessment of the data sets, approaches, methods, models (where applicable) and assumptions used to define the NERF?				
			2.17	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> 1. Improve the FREL document as recommended by the UNFCCC
<b>Component 4. Forest monitoring systems and safeguard measures</b>				
<b>4a. National forest monitoring system</b>				
<b>Criterion 29. Explanation of the monitoring method.</b> Is the choice of methods used in the MRV supported by explicit reasons? Has the system been examined technically and approved at national level? Is it compatible with national and international guidelines? Have any sources of uncertainty been identified?				
1. The forestry inventory has always been the mission of the Forestry Agency (since IEFN 96). The monitoring system will be operational as of 2018 for the ER Program; a monitoring system with and by communities is not new, especially in the context of the of protected areas.	1. The technical plan for national forest monitoring will be approved before the end of 2017; the sources of uncertainty are yet to be analyzed. (note: sources of uncertainty are already identified and analyzed in the national NERF document)		1.86.	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> 1. Develop an action plan to finalize the development and operationalization of the NFMS/MRV system

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
<b>Criterion 30. Demonstration of the first phases of application.</b> Is the system capable of monitoring the results of activities prioritized by the national REDD+ strategy (as opposed to the NERF)? Is the system capable of assessing the displacement of emissions (leakage)? Do the major stakeholders participate in the development and first phases of application of the system? Does the system allow comparison of the change in forest coverage and carbon levels (and the associated GHG emissions) with the NERF reference estimates?				
	1. The system has not yet been implemented and applied.	1. Increased involvement of stakeholders in monitoring the implementation of monitoring systems	2.00	<b>ER-P</b> 1. Implement the forestry tracking system at an ER-P level with the involvement of the stakeholders (GMC, GT REL)
<b>Criterion 31. Institutional arrangements and capacity.</b> Have the mandates for the tasks associated with monitoring the forests been clearly defined? Are data shared transparently? Needs/resources required (capacities, training, equipment, software and budget required, for example): have these been defined and estimated?				
1. The institutional framework of the national MRV carbon monitoring system has already been validated by the GMC; The equipment and infrastructure (buildings) required to operate the monitoring system are ready. (in order to operate 24/7 without interruption, even in the event of a power failure). The materials and equipment for monitoring are housed in the BNC REDD+. 2. One of the strengths is that the process of developing the system has been analyzed in such a way that the capacity of the Ministries themselves will be valorized. In this sense, the Ministry would be able to produce different kinds of mapping on deforestation and forest degradation in	1. The SNSF is still far from complete, as many parameters have yet to be defined. Moreover, the budget and action plans are not yet clear	1. Capitalize on air-based monitoring techniques	2.00	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> 1. Establish the action plan and budget for the establishment of a SNSF 2. Create the Geomatics Laboratory 3. Draft and validate the MRV document

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
the country if provided with the requisite qualities.				
<b>4b. System of information on the multiple advantages, other impacts, governance and safeguards</b>				
<b>Criterion 32. Identification of aspects not connected with carbon and relevant social and environmental issues.</b> Have the social and environmental problems and benefits not connected with carbon been identified? Are there any recommendations for capacity building?				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The aspects not related to carbon are identified</li> <li>Several studies have already been carried out as part of the REDD+ program, notably for studies on socio-economic references, analysis of the political economy of the DD, etc.</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural perspectives must be taken into account in all of these studies (such as local beliefs).</li> <li>Insufficiency of efforts to bring the non-carbon related aspects to the attention of stakeholders</li> </ol>	2.00	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take alternative measures into account</li> </ol>
<b>Criterion 33. Monitoring, reporting, and exchange of information.</b> Does the system provide for the regular dissemination of data relating to non-carbon aspects and safeguards? Does the system provide for the collection and dissemination of information on rural livelihoods, preservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services delivery, key governance factors, and the application of safeguards?				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The various monitoring indicators as well as the Cancun safeguard principles and criteria are identified</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the dissemination of information at regional and local levels</li> <li>Define the schedule of the production of the reports and summaries</li> </ol>	1.95	<b>Preparation for REDD+</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize and validate the indicators and protocols for monitoring the safeguards information system</li> <li>Increase the capacities of the monitoring managers, including collection, processing, analysis and distribution</li> <li>Distribute the monitoring results through the selected channels</li> </ol>
<b>Criterion 34. Institutional arrangements and capacity.</b> Are the mandates for tasks concerning non-carbon aspects and safeguards clearly defined? Have the necessary resources been calculated and planned?				

Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations		Action plan
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As regards monitoring, the inclusion of technical support staff (PATs) within the REDD+ Regional Office is planned, for the supervision and capacity building of all of the functions responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the REDD+ Program.</li> <li>2. It is also legitimate for all data published by BNC REDD+ to first gain validation or approval from platforms at national and regional levels.</li> <li>3. The purpose of the safeguard focus group is to thoroughly study the details of the information and monitoring system prior to its final validation.</li> <li>4. The systematic and periodic evaluation at least every two years would be important in order to ensure the transparency of activities, and create trust between the actors</li> <li>5. The evaluation following the project cycle (short, medium or long) will be beneficial for the monitoring of promoters</li> <li>6. The existence of independent observers is very relevant and justified in order to ensure transparency and clarity of that achieved.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The REDD+ Regional Coordination Office is not yet in place in order to improve and perfect the monitoring system.</li> <li>2. It often occurs that reports on entities on the ground and at a local level do not reach the public.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The selection of independent observers should be transparent and clear.</li> </ol>	<p>1.90.</p>	<p><b>Preparation for REDD+</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finalize and validate the Protocol (Guide) that clarifies the mandates and roles of the different entities responsible for monitoring non-carbon aspects and safeguards</li> <li>2. Draw up the charter of responsibilities following the Protocol</li> <li>3. Strengthen monitoring capabilities</li> </ol>

## Annex 1. Provision of funds for the preparation for REDD+ in Madagascar

Sources of funding	Implementing agency	Component	Amount in USD	State
(FCPF)	BNC REDD+	1,2,3,4	8,800,000.	In progress
UN-REDD+	FAO, UNDP Madagascar	1,2,3,4	202,000	Completed
GIZ:	GIZ:	1.	12,000	
AFD	ONE	1.	300,000	
Government	Consortium PERR_FH (ETCterra, MNP, WCS)	2,3,4	1,349,167.	
TOTAL			10,663,167.	

## Annex 2: Ratings by stakeholder groups participating in the review

### Rating consolidation methodology

The ratings of each participant for each criterion were translated into numbers according to the protocol presented in Figure 7. The ratings for each criterion for each workshop are the average of the individual ratings of all participants, with the exclusion of VOIs and CSOs, whose ratings were calculated separately. Note that the consolidated rating is red if the average is less than 0.49, orange if the average is between 0.50 and 1.49, yellow if the average is 1.50 to 2.49, and green if the average is greater than 3.00 (see Figure 7).

Consolidated ratings for each stakeholder category are calculated by taking the average ratings for the 6 workshops for VOIs and CSOs (5 regional workshops and one national workshop), the 5 workshops for PFRs, and one workshop for TFPs and ministries. The results are presented in the tables below. Final national ratings are the averages of all 5 stakeholder groups (VOI, CSOs, PFRs, TFPs, Ministries).

 noté 4 = bonnes avancées	moyenne de 2,50 a 3,00	GREEN
 noté 3 = bonnes avancés mais effort requis	moyenne de 1,50 a 2,49	YELLOW
 noté 1 = plus d'effort requis	moyenne de 0,50 a 1,49	ORANGE
 noté 0 = absence de progrès	moyenne de 0,00 a 0,49	RED

Figure 7 Translation of ratings into figures and averages for ratings consolidation

## Final rating for all stakeholders

	Evaluation criterion	VOI	CSO	PFR	TFP	MINISTRIES	Final rating
	Number of data used to calculate the average	<i>n</i> = 06	<i>n</i> = 06	<i>n</i> = 05	<i>n</i> = 6-14	<i>n</i> = 15	<i>n</i> = 2-5
1.	Accountability and transparency				2.06	2.53	2.29
2.	Operational mandate and budget				1.33	2.20	1.77.
3.	Mechanism for multi-sector coordination and cross-sector collaboration				1.58	2.47	2.03
4.	Technical supervision capacity				1.73.	2.27	2.00
5.	Fund management capacity				1.45	2.13	1.79.
6.	Mechanism for information feedback and grievances	1.73.	1.68.	2.00	1.42	1.87.	1.74.
7.	participation and commitment of major stakeholders	1.85.	1.76.	2.14	1.96.		1.93.
8.	Consultation process	1.89.	1.80.	2.17	1.83.		1.92.
9.	Information dissemination and access to information	1.71.	1.59	1.84.	1.58	1.93.	1.73.
10.	use and disclosure of the results of consultations	1.25	1.56	1.79.	1.36		1.49
11.	Assessment and analysis			2.16	2.00	2.20	2.12
12.	Ranking of favorable/unfavorable elements, direct and indirect elements, the development of forests			2.16	2.13	2.53	2.27
13.	Linking these favorable/unfavorable elements and the activities of REDD+			2.05	2.06	2.43	2.18
14.	Action plans to take into account rights to natural resources, land tenure and governance	1.71.	1.67.	1.85.	1.38	2.43	1.81.
15.	Impact on forest laws and policies				1.81.	1.71.	1.76.
16.	Selection and prioritization of strategic options for REDD+				2.00	2.54	2.27
17.	Feasibility assessment				1.63.	2.69.	2.16
18.	Impacts of strategic options on the sectoral policies in force				1.69.	2.21	1.95.

	Evaluation criterion	VOI	CSO	PFR	TFP	MINISTRIES	Final rating
19.	Adoption and application of laws and regulations				1.29	2.08	1.68.
20.	Implementation guidelines				1.43	2.00	1.71.
21.	Benefit-sharing arrangement	2.06	1.72.	1.56	1.13		1.62.
22.	National REDD+ registry and REDD+ monitoring system				1.29		1.29
23.	Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards	2.36	2.04	1.93.	2.25		2.15
24.	The design of the REDD+ strategy based on impact	1.93.	1.89.	2.04	1.75.		1.90.
25.	Environmental and Social Management Framework	2.29	1.89.	1.98.	1.88.		2.01
26.	Demonstration of the method				2.29		2.29
27.	Use of historical data and adaptation to the national context				2.14		2.14
28.	Technical feasibility of the methodological approach and compliance with the UNFCCC guidelines and with IPCC recommendations and guidelines				2.17		2.17
29.	Explanation of the monitoring method				1.86.		1.86.
30.	Demonstration of the first phases of application				2.00		2.00
31.	Institutional arrangements and capacity (1)				2.00		2.00
32.	Identification of aspects not connected with carbon and relevant social and environmental issues	2.04	1.84.	2.14	2.00		2.00
33.	Monitoring, reporting, and exchange of information	1.76.	2.07	1.97.	2.00		1.95.
34.	Institutional arrangements and capacity (2)	1.67.	1.93.	1.88.	1.50	2.53	1.90.

## Rating for all VOIs

	Evaluation criterion	Alaotra Mangoro	Atsinanana	Analanjirifo	national	Sofia	SAVA	VOI rating
	Number of data used to calculate the average	<i>n = 05</i>	<i>n = 01</i>	<i>n = 03</i>	<i>n = 03</i>	<i>n = 05</i>	<i>n = 01</i>	<i>n = 06</i>
6.	Mechanism for information feedback and grievances	1.5.	2.00	2.00	1.50	1.40	2.00	<b>1.73.</b>
7.	Participation and commitment of major stakeholders	1.83.	1.00	2.67.	2.00	1.60.	2.00	<b>1.85.</b>
8.	Consultation process	1.67.	1.00	2.33	2.33	2.00	2.00	<b>1.89.</b>
9.	Information dissemination and access to information	1.17	2.00	1.67.	1.00	1.40	3.00	<b>1.71.</b>
10.	Use and disclosure of the results of consultations	1.00		1.00	1.67.	1.60.	1.00	<b>1.25</b>
14.	Action plans to take into account rights to natural resources, land tenure and governance	1.60.	1.00	2.67.	1.50	2.50	1.00	<b>1.71.</b>
21.	Benefit-sharing arrangement	2.00	2.00	2.33	2.50	1.50	2.00	<b>2.06</b>
23.	Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards	1.80.	2.00	2.33	2.50	2.50	3.00	<b>2.36</b>
24.	The design of the REDD+ strategy based on impact	1.80.	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.75.	2.00	<b>1.93.</b>
25.	Environmental and Social Management Framework	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	1.75.	3.00	<b>2.29</b>
32.	Identification of aspects not connected with carbon and relevant social and environmental issues	1.80.	1.00	2.00	1.67.	2.75.	3.00	<b>2.04</b>
33.	Monitoring, reporting, and exchange of information	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.33	2.25	2.00	<b>1.76.</b>
34.	Institutional arrangements and capacity (2)	1.00	2.00	2.33	1.67.	2.00	1.00	<b>1.67.</b>

## Rating for all CSOs

	Evaluation criterion	Alaoatra Mangoro	Analanjirofo	Atsinanana	National	Sofia	SAVA	CSO rating
	Number of data used to calculate the average	<i>n = 15</i>	<i>n = 15</i>	<i>n = 34</i>	<i>n = 12</i>	<i>n = 19</i>	<i>n = 16</i>	<i>n = 06</i>
06.	Mechanism for information feedback and grievances	1.54	1.83.	1.58	1.50	1.79.	1.85.	1.68.
07.	Participation and commitment of major stakeholders	1.77.	1.92.	1.62.	1.67.	1.53	2.08	1.76.
08.	Consultation process	1.54	1.83.	2.08	2.08	1.64.	1.62.	1.80.
09.	Information dissemination and access to information	1.54	1.58	1.42	1.50	1.71.	1.77.	1.59
10.	Use and disclosure of the results of consultations	1.54	1.75.	1.28	1.67.	1.43	1.69.	1.56
14.	Action plans to take into account rights to natural resources, land tenure and governance	1.83.	1.91.	1.68.	1.33	2.00	1.27	1.67.
21.	Benefit-sharing arrangement	1.75.	1.92.	1.89.	1.25	1.85.	1.67.	1.72.
23.	Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards	1.09	2.08	2.00	2.18	2.31	1.58	2.04
24.	The design of the REDD+ strategy based on impact	1.00	1.67.	1.92.	2.00	2.15	1.58	1.89.
25.	Environmental and Social Management Framework	2.20	1.50	1.96.	1.73.	2.31	1.67.	1.89.
32.	Identification of aspects not connected with carbon and relevant social and environmental issues	1.67.	1.73.	1.56	2.09	2.00	2.00	1.84.
33.	Monitoring, reporting, and exchange of information	1.90.	2.18	2.15	1.64.	2.46	2.08	2.07
34.	Institutional arrangements and capacity (2)	1.90.	1.64.	2.11	1.55	2.31	2.08	1.93.

### Rating for all regional platforms (PFR)

	Evaluation criterion	Alaoira Mangoro	Atsinanana	Analanjirofo	Sofia	SAVA	PFR rating
	Number of data used to calculate the average	n = 20	n = 17	n = 18	n = 22	n = 13	n = 05
6.	Mechanism for information feedback and grievances	1.83.	1.69.	2.47	2.00	2.00	2.00
7.	participation and commitment of major stakeholders	2.17	1.85.	2.94.	2.00	1.75.	2.14
8.	Consultation process	2.39	2.25	2.33	1.94.	1.92.	2.17
9.	Information dissemination and access to information	1.78.	1.62.	2.28	1.71.	1.93.	1.84.
10.	use and disclosure of the results of consultations	1.72.	1.92.	2.00	1.56	1.75.	1.79.
11.	Assessment and analysis	2.28	1.73.	2.31	2.27	2.20	2.16
12.	Ranking of favorable/unfavorable elements, direct and indirect elements, the development of forests	2.00	1.91.	2.12	2.47	2.30	2.16
13.	Linking these favorable/unfavorable elements and the activities of REDD+	2.00	1.82.	2.12	2.19	2.10	2.05
14.	Action plans to take into account rights to natural resources, land tenure and governance	1.72.	1.55	2.18	2.00	1.80.	1.85.
21.	Benefit-sharing arrangement	1.11	1.50	1.53	1.88.	1.80.	1.56
23.	Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards	1.88.	2.08	2.18	2.13	1.40	1.93.
24.	The design of the REDD+ strategy based on impact	1.65.	2.08	2.35	2.13	2.00	2.04
25.	Environmental and Social Management Framework	1.71.	1.91.	2.35	2.13	1.80.	1.98.
32.	Identification of aspects not connected with carbon and relevant social and environmental issues	1.88.	2.08	2.53	2.08	2.11	2.14

	<b>Evaluation criterion</b>	<b>Alaotra Mangoro</b>	<b>Atsinanana</b>	<b>Analanjirofo</b>	<b>Sofia</b>	<b>SAVA</b>	<b>PFR rating</b>
33.	Monitoring, reporting, and exchange of information	1.75.	1.83.	2.25	2.25	1.78.	<b>1.97.</b>
34.	Institutional arrangements and capacity (2)	1.81.	1.67.	2.13	2.00	1.78.	<b>1.88.</b>