

Analysis of the final version of the Republic of Congo's R-PP

Context

The Republic of Congo presented its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for assessment by the FCPF Participants Committee at its 6th meeting, held in June 2010, in Georgetown, Guyana. At this meeting, the PC adopted Resolution number PC/6/2010/3, where they decided to allocate grant funding for the Republic of Congo to enable it to move ahead with preparation for REDD+ readiness, provided that the country would submit a revised R-PP addressing all *key issues* identified in the Resolution.

The Republic of Congo submitted a revised R-PP to the FCPF FMT on March 10, 2011. The table below presents the main issues raised in the PC Resolution and the response provided in the revised R-PP.

The FMT concluded that the key issues identified by the FCPF PC have been taken into account in the revised version of the R-PP, as per the table below.

Key issues raised by the PC and how they were addressed in the final R-PP version (March 10, 2011).

Issue	Response in the revised R-PP
<p>Enhance multi-stakeholder consultations on the R-PP, including indigenous peoples, and use the results of this process to further enrich the document;</p>	<p>The National REDD Coordination and the Interim Civil Society Commission for REDD+ (which brings together national civil society platforms engaged in REDD-related issues) led a series of additional multi-stakeholder consultation activities at the national and departmental levels to finalize the R-PP.</p> <p>The country led a “National REDD+ Campaign” from August 4 to December 4, aiming to sensitize, share information and consult various stakeholders on REDD-related issues. The campaign mobilized high-level authorities and civil servants (Ministries, Parliamentarians), civil society, local populations and indigenous peoples and the private sector.</p> <p>The Joint FCPF & UN-REDD mission to the Republic of Congo in August 2010 supported the design and launch of the Interim Civil Society Commission for REDD+, and validated an urgent plan for the finalization the R-PP, including various consultation activities.</p> <p>Additional department-level workshops were organized in February 2011 in the Departments of Likouala, Niari and Lekoumou. These workshops were led by the members of the Interim Civil Society Commission for REDD+. Additional workshops involving civil society members were also held in Brazzaville.</p>

	<p>A National Validation workshop on the revised R-PP version was held on February 22 and 23, 2011.</p> <p>The contact between the Interim Civil Society Commission for REDD+ and the National REDD Coordination were intensified in 2011, with the view of finalizing the R-PP.</p> <p>Regarding consultations with indigenous peoples, the National REDD Coordination organized a “REDD Side Event” during the FIPAC II (International Forum on Indigenous Peoples of Central Africa), held in Impfondo in March 2011.</p>
<p>Better reflect in the R-PP how ongoing or planned developments in other sectors (including mining, agriculture and infrastructure development) are likely to impact deforestation and how REDD+ would potentially support the mitigation of these impacts.</p>	<p>The R-PP (notably components 2a and 2b) has been strengthened with information available in existing studies, such as the National Plan for Environmental Actions (PNAE), National Forest Action Plan (PNAF), Poverty Reduction Strategy paper (DSRP) and the National Land Use Plan (SNAT). More in-depth analysis of potential impact of planned developments in other sectors will be carried out during the implementation phase of the R-PP, as part of the preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy. That should allow the country to better understand the threats to forest cover (and associated emissions) from overall national development.</p>
<p>Further elaborate how the REDD+ and the VPA/FLEGT processes complement each other in addressing governance challenges, taking into account the VPA/FLEGT achievements in terms of stakeholders consultations, trust building among parties and the analytical work produced</p>	<p>An information note on the links between REDD+ and VPA/FLEGT has been added to the R-PP (box 2b1, page 57). The note highlights various common goals shared by both the REDD+ and VPA/FLEGT processes, including: i) preservation of forest ecosystems; ii) sustainability of forest resource use; iii) ensuring equitable sharing of benefits generated by forests. The VPA/FLEGT process allows the country to ensure and demonstrate the respect of laws and regulations concerning the use of forest resources, whereas the REDD+ process should allow the country to report on, and benefit from, reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (which, in turn, should be a result of sustainable forest management).</p>
<p>Provide more details on how monitoring of co-benefits would be carried out;</p>	<p>Component 4b has been strengthened. The national MRV system will integrate principles, criteria and indicators for monitoring co-benefits linked to REDD+, including biodiversity conservation and livelihood of forest-dependent communities), and also monitor the underlying causes of deforestation. The R-PP gives some consideration to the methodological approaches to be used, which will be strengthened during R-PP implementation.</p>
<p>Give proper consideration to the comments provided by the TAP on components 3 (Reference Scenario) and 4 (MRV)</p>	<p>Components 3 and 4 have been revised accordingly.</p> <p>Concerning Component 3 (Reference Scenario), the R-PP clarified the steps towards the preparation of a national REDD+ reference scenario, using an illustration. In the Republic of Congo, the first step will be the estimation of historical emissions (determination of activity data and emission factors). Step 2 deals with “national circumstances”, including household survey data collection and spatial modeling of future deforestation. The</p>

	<p>R-PP clarifies that the country intends to prepare a national-level reference scenario, and sub-national reference scenarios. Improved data collection is expected with the preparation of a National Statistics Strategy for the period 2011 to 2015.</p> <p>As to MRV, the R-PP clearly identifies that the Republic of Congo envisions a long-term development of its MRV system. The complexity of data collected and techniques used will progress as national competences are strengthened. Roles and responsibilities for the development of a national MRV system have been clarified in the revised R-PP. The Republic of Congo expects to capitalize on the results of regional-level MRV projects, such as that executed by FAO (to be financed by the CBFF) and the GEF project (managed by the World Bank).</p>
<p>Provide more in-depth analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, especially industrial logging;</p>	<p>The additional consultations allowed the National REDD Coordination to collect more data on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and enhance its presentation in the R-PP. However, in-depth analysis of the major drivers will be carried out as part of the R-PP implementation.</p> <p>Concerning industrial logging, the Republic of Congo clarified that the advanced stage of implementation of reduced impact logging rules in the country has mitigated the impact of this type of forest management. Logging in the Republic of Congo is highly selective, given stringent requirements from the international markets, limited domestic markets and high transportation costs. The Republic of Congo also insists that, despite some gaps, the national forest legislation is well respected and allows logging to be kept at levels compatible with natural regeneration of the resources.</p>
<p>Articulate more clearly in the R-PP how the analytical studies to be carried out during the Readiness phase will address the issues of insecure land tenure, carbon rights and equitable benefit sharing mechanisms.</p>	<p>Additional information on the studies to be carried out relating to land tenure, carbon rights and equitable benefit sharing arrangements, has been added to the revised R-PP (sections 2b and 2c).</p>