FEDERAL GOVERNMENT O F NIGERIA

SYNTHESIS OF NIGERIA'S REDD+ READINESS PACKAGE (R-PACKAGE)

Date: April 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AD	Activity Data
BSA	Benefit Sharing Arrangements
CRS	Cross River State
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EF	Emission Factor
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation (of the United Nations)
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
FREL/FRL	Forest Reference Emission Level/ Forest Reference Level
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICCC	Inter-Ministerial Council on Climate Change
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MRVWG	MRV Working Group
MTR	Mid-term Review
NAC	National Advisory Council on REDD+
NARSDA	National Airspace Research and Development Agency
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEWMAP	Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NGO	Non–Governmental Organisation

NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NPS	National Park Service
NRS	National REDD+ Secretariat
NSP	National Stakeholders Platform
NTC	National Technical Committee
PMU	Programme Management Unit
PSC	Programme Steering Committee
REDD+	Reducing emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks
REL/RL	Reference Emission Level/ Reference Level
RPR	REDD+ Project Registry
R-Package	REDD+ Readiness Package
R-PP	REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal
SIS	Safeguard Information System
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SRS	State REDD+ Secretariat
SSP	State Stakeholders Platform
SWG	Safeguard Working Group
STC	State Technical Committee on REDD+
TAC	Technical Multi-Sector Advisory Committee
TOR	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions From Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nigeria REDD+ Readiness has advanced significantly since the last Mid-term report in 2017. The REDD+ Readiness Package (R-Package) has reviewed the progress that Nigeria has made to achieve REDD+ Readiness since the inception of the program in Nigeria. As a requirement for REDD+ countries participating in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) process, Nigeria presents its REDD+ Readiness Package (R-Package) to demonstrate the country's progress, capture lessons learned, assess remaining gaps, and identify activities for the way forward to transitioning to the implementation of performance-based activities.

REDD+ Readiness Assessment

Series of activities have been undertaken towards the actualization of the REDD+ Readiness Package. These have resulted in the production of a number of valuable reports and information documents (e.g the Readiness Preparation Proposal – RPP; the Mid-Term Report; the National Strategy for Nigeria's REDD+ Programme, the Forest Reference Emission Levels, Safeguards Information System and Multiple Benefits, and the MRV system etc.).

The assessment process involved an in-depth study of relevant publications on REDD+ programme and various reports on REDD+ activities in Nigeria, as well as consultation with relevant stakeholders in the REDD+ States (Cross River, Edo, Ondo, Ogun, Nasarawa, Kaduna and Plateau States) using questionnaires developed from the FCPF's Methodological Framework for Readiness Assessment, comprising four major components, nine sub-components and 34 diagnostic questions.. Progress made in the Readiness process was based on the outcome of the analysis of the questionnaires retrieved from the various stakeholders and general comments during the interactions with stakeholders.

Results of the Self-Assessment

1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements

The National REDD+ Secretariat provided technical supervision and coordination of the State REDD+ Secretariats (sub-national level), staffing and funds management as well as cross-sectoral co-ordination of all relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies in terms of the institutional arrangements, accountability, and transparency. Above all, National REDD+ Programme has a multi-sectoral approach to enable effective coordination and collaboration across sectors to address drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation.

1b. Consultation, Participation and Outreach

The national REDD+ programme has put in place a robust consultation and participation mechanisms in the design of key aspects of REDD+ readiness.

The National REDD+ has a Consultation Platform of Civil Society Organizations for the purpose of sharing information and receiving inputs from various stakeholders.

Excellent progress has been made in the consultation, participation and outreach, especially in the design of key aspects of REDD+ readiness: communication strategy and plan, National REDD+ Strategy, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments and Safeguards

instruments, Gender action plan, Community Based REDD+ (CBR+), etc. Stakeholder engagement platforms and technical working groups at both national and sub-national levels emerged and effectively participated in the REDD+ processes across the country.

2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

The assessment of land use, land-use change Drivers has been conducted at the sub-national level through the:

- Study on the Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Cross River State

REDD+ early efforts on the assessment of land use and land use change drivers were thorough and built extensively at the sub-nationals. Much work has been done on the issues relating to tree tenure, benefit sharing, livelihoods etc. with the launching of National Forest Policy by the Federal Department of Forestry, Federal Ministry of Environment. Further work still required on policy and forest governance.

2b. REDD+ Strategy Options

Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options

During the first phase of the national REDD+ strategy development, series of working groups, field trips and consultations were done in many states of the country to consolidate the REDD+ strategy options and formulate a logical framework for REDD+ activities that will satisfy the country's specifics.

The strategy options which were selected through a participatory and inclusive process were subjected to a thorough validation process to ensure that appropriate measures have been identified to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and that potential impacts (both positive and negative) were assessed and measures proposed for their mitigation. At the end, four broad strategy options were selected as a set of strategic response to enable Nigeria to achieve the objectives of the National REDD+ Strategy. These options focus on REDD+ activities to address drivers of deforestation, improve forest and climate change governance, attract incentives, and enable equitable access to benefit and grievance redress.

Nigeria's REDD+ Strategy is well-aligned with key national developmental strategies and policies. The policies include the National Climate Change Policy, Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to UNFCCC and National Forest Policy. Nigeria anchors its National REDD+ Strategy on one general objective, which is "To reduce the rate of carbon emissions and enhance removals from the forest sector while creating benefits for resilience building and green economic development".

Significant progress was made in identifying and prioritising deforestation and forest degradation drivers and barriers to the enhancement of forest carbon stocks aimed at reducing GHG emission as well as achieving Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

2c. Implementation Framework

Good progress was made to complete the development of benefit-sharing mechanism. The benefit sharing framework to support REDD+ intervention in Nigeria was approved during stakeholders' validation workshop. It proposes also options regarding carbon rights. Additional work is required to clarify carbon and tree tenure, to agree on a final model for benefit sharing.

Feedback and Grievances Redress Mechanism (FGRM) completed. Further work is required to ensure that the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism is operationalized and that relevant ministries are fully engaged.

2d. Social and Environmental Impacts

The Nigeria REDD+ Programme has done the analysis of social and environmental issues, including potential risks and benefits of REDD+ activities, as related to the population, the environment and the livelihood of the forest dependent communities. This was done through the following two major activities:

- Development of national standards, the Principles, Criteria and Indicators for REDD+ (PCI-REDD+), and
- Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process and development of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

The Safeguards and Safeguard Information System will ensure that all REDD+ actions and activities in the country are covered by Safeguard policies that apply across board, regardless of the funding source or initiative. This will help maximize the effectiveness of Safeguards, reduce transactional costs, and avoid overlaps or duplication of activities.

3 . Forest Reference Level/Reference Levels

The Government of Nigeria first submitted its sub-national forest reference emission level (FREL) to UNFCCC in 2018. The Government used a step-wise approach to its national FREL development as stated in Decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 10. As such, the National FREL reflected the best available information at the time of submission (2019) at national level. The submission presents a detailed description of the steps and calculations used to establish the national reference level, including:

- The scope and methodologies that was applied which can be modified whenever improved data becomes available;
- Historical data on deforestation;
- The methodological approach for the adjustment according to national circumstances,

Significant work has been done on the FREL/REL with the FCPF grant that builds on the sub-national FREL/REL previously submitted to the UNFCCC.

4a. National Forest Monitoring System

The overall objective of the National Forest Monitoring System is to monitor emissions from deforestation, forest degradation and enhancement of carbon stocks, as well as to allow the

country to assess performance against the reference level. The NFMS is yet to become fully operational, and is closely linked to the construction of the FREL.

An MRV Technical Committee (MRV-TC) has been created in the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) to support the NFMS process in Nigeria. The MRV-TC comprises of experts from NRS, staff of the state REDD+ Secretariats, Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) and other relevant MDAs. These MDAs have clear roles and responsibilities assigned to them regarding operationalizing the NFMS.

4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

Nigeria developed a Safeguards Information System (SIS). The Safeguard Information Systems (SIS) will allow a systematic approach for collecting and providing information on how REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation phase of REDD+.

This self-assessment provides detailed assessment of each of the R-PP key components, their respective sub-components and related activities. The assessment is meant to identify what have been done, remains to be done to bring them to completion. Emphasis is on (i) achievements to date; and (ii) analysis of these results, in line with the FCPF assessment framework, including major constraints and gaps that need to be addressed.

Overall, Nigeria's REDD+ program made significant progress in the implementation of the R-PP and the overall readiness process as described by the criteria of the FCPF RAF.

Table 1: Summary outcome of the Nigeria's REDD+ Readiness by Sub-Components of the FCPF Methodological Framework

Component	Sub-components	Colour Indication	Comments
Component **Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultation**	*Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Mechanisms.*		Coordination and supervision structures and processes are developed.
	Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Sensitization		Stakeholder consultation and participation mechanisms are in place; the process well established.
Component 2: Preparation of the REDD+ Strategy	*Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Laws, Policies and Forest Governance.*		Assessment of land use, land tenure and drivers has been completed. More work on policy and governance is

			required.
	Sub-component 2b:_Strategic Options REDD_		Selection of priority options has been completed, following the process and other requirements described in the RAF assessment criteria.
	Sub-component 2c: _Implementation Framework_		• Development of benefit-sharing mechanism completed. • FGRM completed. • Policy and legislation reforms on-going.
	Sub-component 2d: _Social and Environmental Impacts_		SESA and ESMF completed through comprehensive consultation following the World Bank, UNFCCC and national guidance.
Component 3: Reference Emission Level/Reference Levels	_Reference Emission Level/Reference Levels_		• National FREL submitted to UNFCCC. • Additional data collection and processing is underway for the reconstruction of FREL.
Component 4: Forest Monitoring Systems and Safeguard Measures	**Sub-component 4a:** _National forest monitoring system_		NFMS Developed and its operationalization to follow.
	Sub-component 4b_: Information system on multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards_		Analytical work on multiple benefit undertaken alongside analysis of policies and measures that support REDD+ implementation to inform Safeguard

			information System.

The above is a considerable improvement upon the Mid-Term Progress Report on Nigeria REDD+ produced in June 2017, hence the National REDD+ Programme has provided coordination in the institutional arrangements through the establishment of various Technical Committees both at the National and State levels. The management of REDD+ activities through these Committees have demonstrated they are operating in an open, accountable and transparent manner. All the Components of the FCPF Methodological Assessment Framework are progressing well, but further development required on sub-components 2a and 2c were policy and legislation reforms are currently on-going in line with the readiness objectives.

The result of this current self-assessment has summarized the efforts made by the National REDD+ Secretariat with the Additional Finance support when compared with that of the MTR. Table 2 shows the performance of progress indicators during the mid-term review and the R-Package self-assessment for Nigeria with the following colour codes and interpretations:

Green (4) = Significant progress achieved; Yellow (3) = Progressing well but further progress required; Orange (2) = Limited initial work started; and Red (1) = Almost nothing started. Almost all (88.24%) of the indicators assessed were found to have achieved significant progress while 11.16% have progressed well but require further development (Table 2).

Table 2. Performance of progress indicators during the mid-term review and the R-Package self-assessment for Nigeria.

R-PP progress indicators	Mid-term Review 2015-2017	R-Package Self-assessment 2019-2022
Component 1a. National REDD Management Arrangements		
1. Accountability and transparency	Yellow	Green
2. Operating mandate and budget	Yellow	Green
3. Multi-sector coordinating mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration	Yellow	Green
4. Technical supervision capacity	Yellow	Green
5. Funds management capacity	Yellow	Green
6. Feedback and grievance mechanism	Yellow	Green
Component 1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach		
7. Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	Red	Green
8. Consultation processes	Red	Green

9. Information sharing and accessibility of information		
10. Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes		
Component 2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, and Governance		
11. Assessment and analysis		
12. Prioritisation of direct and indirect drivers / barriers to forest carbon stock		
13. Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities		
14. Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance		
15. Implications for forest law and policy		
Component 2b. REDD+ Strategy Options		
16. Selection and prioritisation of REDD+ strategy options		
17. Feasibility assessment		
18. Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies		
Component 2c. REDD+ Implementation Framework		
19. Adoption and implementation of legislation/ regulations		
20. Guidelines for implementation		
21. Benefit sharing mechanism		
22. National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities		
Component 2d. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) in the Formulation of the REDD+ Strategy		
23. Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues		
24. REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts		
25. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)		
Component 3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level		
26. Demonstration of methodology		
27. Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances		
28. Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency withUNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines		
Component 4a. National Forest Monitoring System		
29. Documentation of monitoring approach		
30. Demonstration of early system implementation		

31. Institutional arrangements and capacities		
Component4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards		
32. Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues		
33: Monitoring, reporting and information sharing		
34: Institutional arrangements and capacities		

REDD+ readiness process

Nigeria began taking the first steps on the road to REDD+ in 2009, at the time when the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) launched negotiations to create a system of policy approaches and positive incentives for REDD+.As Nigeria elaborated its plans for how best to get 'ready for REDD+' it received financial support and technical guidance along the way, first from the UN-REDD program and followed by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

Nigeria's vision for REDD+ is clear, pragmatic and supported by a broad cross-section of federal and state government ministries, departments and agencies, traditional authorities, civil society organizations as well as reflects its structure as a federal republic of 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), and reflects the history of land use and ongoing development pressures across the country. The initial fund, which was from the UN-REDD helped to achieve the following:

- Provided catalytic finance for awareness-raising, stakeholder dialogue and planning around a REDD+ process in Nigeria;
- Launched a Participatory Governance Assessment initiative for RED+ (PGA/REDD+), one of two in the world, to lay the foundations for REDD+ stakeholder engagement & governance, using a country-led approach;
- Supported Nigeria in the development of sub-national REDD+ Strategy which was further scaled up to the national level with FCPF support;
- Supported Nigeria in the development of sub-national REL/RL for Nigeria, which was submitted to the UNFCCC in line with decision 12/CP.17 to the UNFCCC, as an interim measure taking into consideration the national circumstances of Nigeria. The sub-national REL/RLs was thereafter integrated into the national REL/RLs; and
- Safeguard Information System (SIS) established at the sub-national level.

REDD+ readiness process post - FCPF Readiness Fund

Nigeria's rate of progress in REDD+, from initial expressions of interest in 2009, significantly accelerated in 2015 when the FCPF Grant was approved. In early 2015 the implementation of the R-PP financed from the FCPF Readiness Fund began, but the implementation of a revised 18-month work and procurement plan was slightly delayed due to the 2015 Presidential and National Assembly elections.

The FCPF Readiness Fund led to the development of the country's readiness process, through development of REDD+ strategy options, consolidated federal-level REDD+ readiness and expanded the scope of REDD+ to more additional states as part of its long term strategic plan

for climate change mitigation nationwide; further development of the Nigeria REDD+ Strategy drawing from frame work of the sub-national Strategy developed during UNREDD funding grant; and development of the Reference Emissions Levels: Up-scaling of the sub-national FREL. The National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) under the Federal Ministry of Environment, coordinated the REDD readiness process. The preparation of this R-Package signals Nigeria is at an advanced stage of its readiness, and ready to move to the next stage of REDD+ implementation.

Performance of FCPF progress indicators

The preparation of the R-Package provided a platform to engage stakeholders on the progress made to date across all the sub-components of the readiness proposal as detailed in the Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework as well as progress towards achieving the four components of the R-PP. In this R-Package, the 34 progress indicators detailed in the Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework, were assessed and found to have good progress made in all components. Again, the indicators show that almost all the subcomponents assessed were found to have progressed well but indicators: 15, 19, 22 and 23 require further development (Table 2).

Excellent progress has been made in Components 3 (Reference Emission Level / Reference Level) and significant progress made in Component 4 (Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards) although, further work is required to operationalize the NFMS.

Next steps activities

In the process of the self-assessment several gaps and areas that require further progress have been identified under the Component 2: subcomponents 2a 2c and 2d out of the nine sub-components of the R-PP. Nigeria plans to complete these gaps and activities in line with the planned timeframe. Completion of these gaps and areas for further development are necessary for Nigeria to meet the readiness objectives in line with the FCPF RAF. Therefore, these activities are receiving highest priority in the remaining time of the readiness implementation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Country context

Nigeria has unique endowment of rich forest resources and diverse ecosystems that stretch from the coastal mangrove swamp and the tropical rain forest in the south, through savannah grasslands to the arid sahelian ecosystems in the north, including the montane vegetation of the Jos, Mambilla and Obudu Plateaux. In these vegetation zones reside abundant varieties of flora and fauna species, including insects, birds, fishes, reptiles, and mammals of all description.

However, deforestation and forest degradation represent major carbon emissions sources in the Nigeria. The country therefore recognises the vital role that forest could play in climate mitigation as they serve as carbon sinks. As climate change is increasingly becoming the greatest global challenge ever, several global and national efforts have been initiated to combat climate change. The Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) mechanism, being one of the efforts, has been envisaged to play a significant role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and generate a new financial stream for sustainable development.

Nigeria has 36 states and a Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Each state has constitutional responsibilities over the ownership and management of the forest resources within their boundaries. The Federal Government has a general responsibility to ensure environmental protection and natural resources conservation, including forestry by setting national policy but not for implementation (this being the preserve of the states).

The local governments are enjoined to participate in forestry development activities but almost never have the resources and/or capacity to do this. Participation of other stakeholders, including the communities depends on the level of devolution and decentralization by authority as enshrined in the forest policies of each state forestry service. So far, the participation of communities in forest management is minimal outside of Cross River State. But the national government is already aiming to strengthen participation in forest governance across the country. The new national forest policy therefore aims to increase:

a) Participatory management;

b) Effective stakeholders' collaboration;

c) Decentralization/democratization of forest governance; and

d) Greater cross-sectoral approach in forest planning process.

Nigeria's governance structure and how it affects forest management justifies why the country adopted the nested approach to implement its REDD+ Programme.

1.2. Developing Nigeria's REDD+ Architecture

Nigeria is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and a signatory to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement (2015) and has developed

various policy measures on forest, climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives to support the development and implementation of REDD+.

Nigeria considers REDD+ as opportunity and viable source of sustainable financing for investment in forest management, forest conservation, and forest restoration to enhance multiple benefits of REDD+, including but not limited to, biodiversity conservation, enhanced resilience, livelihood improvement and poverty reduction. REDD+ promises an opportunity to address some major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation outside forestry sector e.g. agricultural expansion, infrastructure development, changing demand for goods and services; and has become a motivating factor for Nigeria to participate in REDD+.

Nigeria applied for membership of the UN-REDD in December 2009, and it's REDD readiness plan was approved for funding at the seventh UN-REDD Program Policy Board in October 2011. The approval of the national REDD+ Programme at the seventh UN-REDD Program Policy Board (October 2011), with a budget of US$ 4 million and an implementation time of 2.5 years (2013-2015), which was extended at no cost until 2017, focussed on piloting REDD+ in Cross River State and building capacity and policy framework for REDD+ at the national level. In preparing for the up scaling of REDD+ to more states of the country, Nigeria submitted a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) to the Facility Management Team (FMT) in July 2013, in accordance with Resolution PC/14/2013/2. The document was approved, with a budget of US $ 3.8 million grant for REDD+ readiness, which was signed in 2015 with the World Bank. Nigeria began the implementation of the R-PP financed from the FCPF Readiness Fund to support the country's readiness process, with the implementation of the REDD+ elements at the national level (National REDD+ Strategy, SESA, EMSF and PF, FGRM, FREL). The mid-term progress report regarding the national progress of Nigeria to implement REDD+ (MTR) received a favourable opinion from the FCPF Participants Committee in September 2017. As a result, Nigeria has benefited from an additional US $ 4.9 million from the FCPF Readiness fund, enabling it to finalize the national REDD+ strategy, update its FREL, finalise Safeguards and Safeguards Information System as well as Multiple Benefits design. This indicates that Nigeria has put in place all the necessary instruments for the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy, and has built institutional capacity within the country to manage its REDD+ programme. The country has reached an advanced level to develop and operationalise the national forest monitoring system (NFMS). The preparation of the R-Package (this document) culminates the final delivery of the FCPF REDD+ readiness support to Nigeria.

Nigeria believes that REDD+ implementation will advance sustainable management of the country's rich forest resources and diverse ecosystems. The harmonization of various sectoral policies that optimise cross-sectoral synergies, as well as improved forest law enforcement and governance will further promote REDD+ implementation in Nigeria. Considering the huge potential of REDD+, Nigeria established a National REDD+ Programme under the

---

Fig. 1/Box 1: Nigeria's vision, mission and objectives of REDD+

Vision: To establish a climate resilient economy through sustainable management of forest to enhance carbon sink, and reduce GHG emissions by at least 20% by year 2050.

Mission: To achieve the vision of climate resilient economy and sustainable management of forests through:

  i.   Strengthening the functioning of forest and land management institutions and systems;

  ii.   Improving relevant laws and regulations and strengthening law enforcement across the land management and fiscal governance sectors; and

  iii. Improving the capacity of relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government to manage land, forest and ecosystem resources.

Objectives: The objective of the Nigeria REDD+ Programme is to implement the forest sector plan for achieving Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) aimed at reducing GHG emission. The specific objectives are to:

  i.   Implement sustainable forest management programmes, focusing on reduction of major drivers of deforestation and degradation across the ecological regions of Nigeria.

  ii.   Build capacity of local communities in improving forest management by introducing sustainable livelihood programs.

  iii. Promote good governance at all levels for the sustainable management of the country's forestry resources.

  iv.   Ensure equitable access and distribution of REDD+ co-benefits to all affected parties, including women, youths and other vulnerable groups.

  v.   Facilitate access to global and national resources and partnership for the sustainable management of the country's forest resources.

Federal Ministry of Environment. With the objective of ensuring that a sound REDD+ architecture will also help in achieving Nigeria's obligation to contribute to global low carbon emission development pathways and the global sustainable development agenda, Nigeria has developed its vision, mission and objective of REDD+ (See box 1).

1.3. Defining Institutional Arrangement for Nigeria REDD+

Concerted efforts have been made to put in place the institutional and management arrangements for the implementation of REDD+ process in Nigeria both at national and sub-national levels. The national and sub-national management arrangements and multi-actor

consultation and coordination platforms have been established and are functioning. The national and sub-national are working closely to ensure an effective implementation of REDD+. The programme also has technical working groups with excellent technical and managerial capacities to fully exercise the range of functions required to successfully implement a nationwide REDD+ program, taking into cognisance Nigeria's nested approach.

1.4. Strategic Expansion of REDD+ Across Jurisdictions

Long term vision: Nigeria intends to expand the scope of REDD+ to more states as part of its long-term strategic plan for climate change mitigation nationwide, having recognized that deforestation and forest degradation represent major carbon emissions sources in the country. Thus, rolling out REDD+ Readiness in more of the country's 36 States will contribute much in terms of emission reductions..The modalities for expanding the scope of REDD+ to other states comprise of preliminary discussions with government authorities in the states that have indicated interest to participate in Nigeria's REDD+ Programme, following the adoption of the Memorandum on REDD+ by the National Council on Environment in September 2011, which called on all states in Nigeria to participate in REDD+ as means of saving the remaining forest estates, achieve forest conservation, and promote sustainable livelihoods.

Selection approach: Cross River State was selected as pilot for Nigeria being the State with the single largest forest cover in Nigeria, and immense political commitment and clear demonstration of effective forest governance. Cross River State therefore serves as centre of excellence for REDD+ in Nigeria, providing lessons for replication across other jurisdictions. The process of choosing and expanding to new states was a combination of several factors. First a criteria analysis was done, followed by comparison of the type of forests involved and the rate of deforestation, and relatively stable forest cover, taking into consideration the local context of each state involved in the pre-qualification. The selection incorporated several social economic and ecological safeguards to prevent the potential harmful impacts on local communities and the environment.. Thereafter, the prequalified states were eligible for Scoping Mission. After the scoping mission, there was an analysis of results from the field based on selected stakeholders, and then a production of the first draft of report capturing all the processes was forwarded to the World Bank for a quality assurance review and the final selection was cleared by the World Bank based on the evaluation documents.

1.5. Gains of REDD+ and Progress towards REDD+ Readiness

The national REDD+ Secretariat is fully functional and has shown effective coordination and supervision of the Nigeria REDD+ Programme to achieve readiness and to commence the transition from readiness to investment. The programme facilitated readiness at the sub-national level in Cross River State as at 2017 with a sub-national FREL, Safeguards, MRV system and Strategy in place in addition to a REDD+ Investment Plan completed in 2020. Beyond the pilot State, the National programme has advanced REDD+ readiness to 6 other States with Additional Finance support, which enabled the expansion of REDD+ activities at the national level, using the best practice and lessons learned in Cross River State. Nigeria has developed a National REDD+ Strategy based on robust stakeholder consultation and analytic studies to reflect the national circumstance. The country has also developed a national FREL, MRV, SIS and Multiple Benefits, and was at the point of finalising a Forest Monitoring System by end of 2021.

The overall management arrangements for REDD+ in Nigeria has been fully set up both at the national and sub-national levels. Mechanisms are in place to support effective communication and building stakeholder engagement platforms between government institutions, private sector, civil society and communities. REDD+ has enabled unprecedented collaboration across sectors to mitigate drivers. The National Secretariat and stakeholders have facilitated dialogue to integrate REDD+ issues in National climate change agenda, as already evidenced in REDD+ integration in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Civil society and community-based engagement platforms have been strengthened with the aim of building viable communities of practice to help facilitate inclusion and transformational governance in forestry and related issues in Nigeria. The country is continuing to explore opportunities to consolidate on the gains made and initiate a quick and effective transition from readiness to investment.

1.6. Nigeria R-Package Assessment Process

Nigeria has based its R-Package assessment process on the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework. The FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework enables a participatory, inclusive, in-depth and transparent self-assessment process that enables a country to reflect on the progress and gains made regarding the readiness process, the outputs and the outcomes. Summarily, the FCPF's Methodological Framework for Readiness Assessment comprises four major components, nine sub-components and 34 diagnostic questions.

The R-Package assessment process involved technical working groups and stakeholder engagement platforms that have evolved from the REDD+ Readiness process, including groups from government MDAs, private sector, civil society and communities at both national and sub-national levels. Desk review of analytic documents and other outputs from the readiness process, as well as R-Package reports from other countries contributed to the content of this report.

The process used a check list of questions to facilitate dialogue and elicit information from direct informants and focal groups cutting across the various stakeholder groups, and involving both women and men in communities. The robust iterations provided opportunity to contribute to the self-assessment Nigeria's REDD+ readiness program, taken into consideration its nested approach. Stakeholders considered and discussed the progress made to date across all the components of the readiness proposal against the FCPF RAF assessment criteria.

A dedicated questionnaire was provided to the participating stakeholders for the self-assessment. The questionnaire was based on the criteria and diagnostic questions in the RAF, and provided space for scoring against the assessment criteria using colour coded score ranges for each of the progress indicators (traffic lights: Green, Yellow, Orange and Red represented by 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively; where 4 represents the highest level of achievement and 1 represents the lowest level of achievement). The score ranges are qualitative and enabled aggregation of results across the stakeholder groups. The questionnaire also provided space for noting significant achievements and lessons learned, as well as gaps and issues that require further development.

This Nigeria REDD+ R-Package assessment report is therefore based on the results of the reviews and nationwide consultations and contributions from stakeholders regarding the progress that Nigeria has made towards REDD+ readiness as at December, 2021,

As specified in the FCPF Readiness assessment guidelines, a colour-coded system was used to evaluate progress on each of the questions for the self-assessment. Four responses were included as presented below .

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Colour-coding score system used in assessment process

SECTION 2: OUTCOME OF THE SELF–ASSESSMENT PROCESS

This entire section presents the overall progress the Nigeria has made towards REDD+ Readiness based on the various components and sub-components of the Assessment Framework.

2.1 COMPONENT 1: READINESS ORGANISATION AND CONSULTATION

2.1.1 Sub-Component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements

Criteria 1   : Accountability and transparency

This part of the Assessment Framework focuses on national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements and how they have been effective in fulfilling core functions. The colour code is green, indicating that Nigeria has achieved significant progress to meet these criteria.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Nigeria REDD+ institutions and management arrangements at both national and sub-national levels are functioning in ways that demonstrate accountability and transparency. The Federal Government of Nigeria has demonstrated strong political will and commitment to mitigate climate change and manage REDD+ processes in ways that are peculiar to Nigeria's circumstances. First, the government adopted a nested approach to enable REDD+ actions at both national and sub-national levels in order to meet the constitutional and agro-ecological ambience of the country. Thereafter, the government created and supported a National REDD+ Secretariat at the Federal Department of Forestry in the Federal Ministry of Environment to coordinate REDD+ processes nationwide, while the sub-nationals replicated a similar structure to support a jurisdictional REDD+ approach. Furthermore, the government broadened the institutional arrangement inclusive of other relevant sectors and evolved processes for inclusive planning and development of REDD+ systems, Strategies, and other operational tools.

The main implementation organs at the national level include (i) National Advisory Council; (ii) Programme Steering Committee; (iii) National Technical Committee; and (iv) Working Groups. The National REDD+ Secretariat at the Federal Department of Forestry of the Federal Ministry of Environment is responsible for the overall coordination of REDD+ in Nigeria and supports the activities of the various implementation organs.

In each of the REDD+ States in the country, the main organs are state replicas of the Technical Committee and state-specific Working Groups. There is also State level or sub-national Stakeholder Platforms that enabled robust stakeholder engagement and participation in the processes leading to the achievement of REDD+ Readiness in the country.
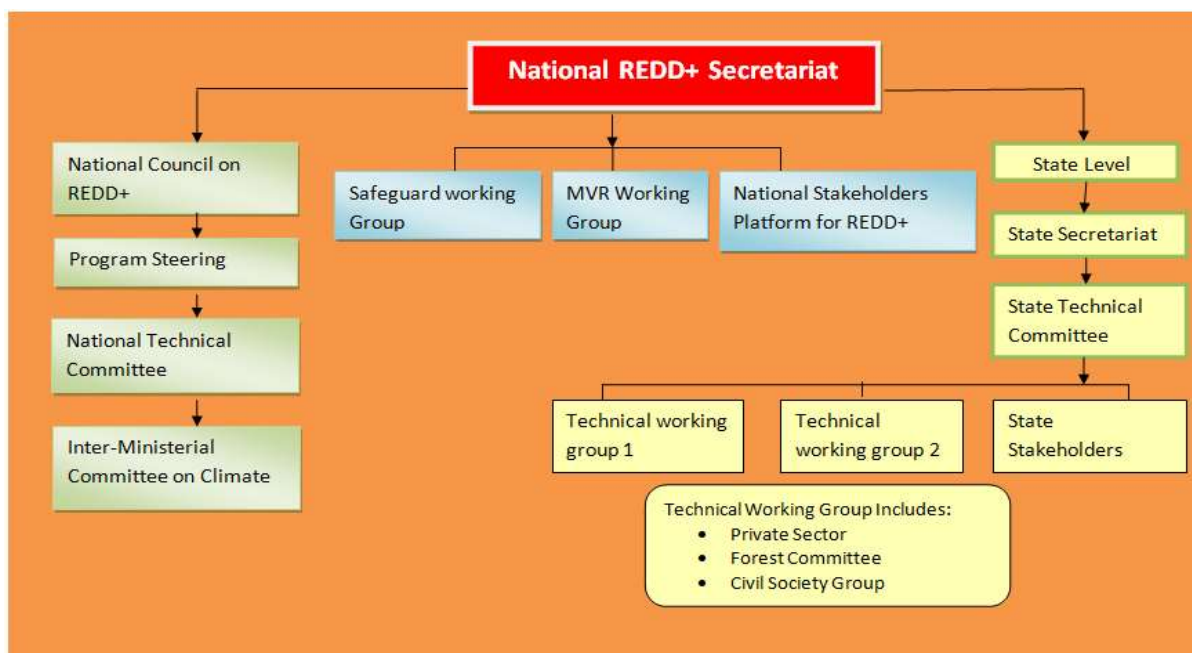
Figure 2: Institutional Arrangement for REDD+ Implementation in Nigeria.

The National REDD+ Secretariat was established at the Department of Forestry, Federal Ministry of Environment to ensure coordination of the REDD+ process at the national level and provide oversight function in the participating States (currently 7 States with the hope of continuous expansion), ensuring the replication of lessons from Cross River State, which was the pilot State. The management arrangement ensured the coordination of the various working groups and networking with and between relevant ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) at the National and State levels. The National REDD+ Secretariat facilitated integration of REDD+ issues in National climate change agenda in close collaboration with the Department of Climate Change.

The National Advisory Council is responsible for providing the overall policy direction and oversight for the programme at both national and sub-national levels. The Programme Steering Committee (PSC) provides technical support and oversight for the implementation the REDD+ Readiness both at national and sub-national levels. The PSC has been active and has made substantial contribution to the overall programme performance, determination of the strategic direction of the programme and ensure its progress. The PSC has also been supportive in effecting corrective action required for better realisation of programme outputs and achievement of objectives. The National Technical Committee (NTC) with mandates to strengthen the knowledge and expertise available for project implementation, operational monitoring and dissemination of programme achievements to various stakeholders and relevant forest dependent communities for ownership and inclusive participation in the implementation of REDD+ programme.

The NTC's roles were highly instrumental to the successful Readiness implementation in the States. The same state-level structure has been adopted at the sub-national levels for the implementation of REDD+ Readiness Programme at the state level, and will be replicated as the programme continues to expand to cover more States in the future.

Supporting the NTC are various Working Groups (MRV Working Groups, Safeguard Working Group, Stakeholders Forum, etc., established at National and State levels. They are

providing good and effective technical backstopping to the R-PP implementation in the country as they serve as platforms for specialists or experts to provide input into in respective work of consultants and technical agencies hired to support the REDD+ process.

At sub-national level, REDD+ Secretariats have been established in all the seven States participating in REDD+ Programme, supported by a functional State Technical Committee (STC). The PSC is very active in the provision of technical direction and in the overall performance of REDD+ process in the state. Additional Finance (AF) support from the FCPF has helped in consolidating the national management arrangements as well as state management arrangements, in all the currently participating seven States, using the Cross River State's model and arrangements. Through the AF's support, State-level Secretariats are collaborating across sectors to mainstream REDD+ into their policies and programs, and are conducting robust engagement with stakeholders including civil society and communities.

Criteria 2: Operating mandate and budget

This section demonstrates how national REDD+ institutions operate under clear mutually supportive mandates with adequate, predictable and sustainable budgets. The colour code is yellow, indicating that Nigeria is making progress and seeks to consolidate on the gains achieved in developing REDD+ operating mandate and budget that are mutually supportive across all relevant sectors.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

While the government of Nigeria and sub-national governments in the country have ensured that institutions involved in REDD+ implementation operate under clear mutually supportive mandates, and while evidence-based planning has evolved to enable predictable budgets, Nigeria is yet to secure adequate and sustainable budgets to support REDD+ implementation at all levels. Nigeria agreed that the UNDP and FAO manage the initial fund for REDD+ readiness with pilot in Cross River State and policy intervention at the national level from 2012, in close collaboration the National and CRS REDD+ Secretariats to plan activities, develop budgets, disburse funds, and carry out audits. When the R-PP implementation started in 2015, the World Bank has managed the funds from FCPF and followed due process for effective fund utilisation in close collaboration with the National REDD+ Secretariat. Because of Nigeria's nested approach, the National REDD+ programme supports sub-nationals to seek for grants directly, with implementation arrangements that enabled inclusiveness and reporting to the national programme. As such, CRS had acquired funds from the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force, first to support carbon inventory, and then later to develop an Investment Plan to implement the sub-national REDD+ Strategy.

Criteria 3: Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration

Nigeria is progressing well in ensuring that national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements coordinate and integrate REDD+ activities into and influence the broader national policy frameworks related to emissions reduction particularly in Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Uses (AFOLU) sector. Nigeria scores the current performance with a

yellow code, as seen below, signifying that while significant progress has been achieved, more innovative approach need to evolve to institutionalise the REDD+ mechanism and mainstream REDD+ actions across relevant sectors.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

A major landmark progress is the integration of REDD+ in Nigeria's revised NDC and the recognition given to the AFOLU sector in contributing to Nigeria's efforts at meeting the NDC targets by 2030. The REDD+ Secretariat is equally coordinating actions with other initiatives in the Federal Department of Forestry and the Federal Department of Climate Change to use REDD+ as the spring board for applying nature based solutions to mitigating climate change and addressing other environmental issues in the country.

The inclusion of other institutions from agriculture, lands, mining, energy, justice, finance, and commerce particularly in the technical committee at the national has contributed to REDD+ adopting a broader perspective in identifying priorities to strategically mainstream REDD+ actions in the development options of this sectors. For instance, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture has developed measures to promote climate smart agriculture to boost productivity while developing the natural capital. Discussion on sustainable land management and more efficient energy options are rooted in the REDD+ concept. These are catalytic first steps that can be escalated through better partnerships and use of more efficient tool like the REDD+ Registry to harmonise the roles and improve multi-sectoral collaboration. Already, high policy level dialogue with the parliamentarians is focussing on harmonising extant regulations and consolidating REDD+ coordination to build partnerships and for Nigeria to be able to demonstrate its contributions to emissions reduction from the AFOLU sector.

Criteria 4: Technical supervision capacity

This section explains how effectively and efficiently the Nigeria REDD+ institutions and management arrangements have led and supervised multi-sector readiness activities, including the regular supervision of technical preparations, for which Nigeria has achieved significant progress as shaded below.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Nigeria designed its National REDD+ Programme based on the country's circumstances by adopting an innovative, two-track approach consisting of actions at both federal and state levels. At the Federal level, the Programme created technical capacities to develop strategic and policy frameworks for REDD+, and support the alignment of the country with international climate change and environmental negotiations and agreements. At the state level, the Programme conducted strategy-development and demonstration activities starting from the pilot State in Cross River where, under the funding budget of the UN-REDD was able to implement the first three elements of REDD+ in Cross River State between 2012 and 2017 (the CRS REDD+ Strategy, Sub-national FREL and Safeguard Policies and Measures).

A National Technical Committee (NTC) was crafted among experts from relevant government institutions, civil society, academia and the private sector and mandated to strengthen the knowledge and expertise available for REDD+ implementation in the country. State level Technical Committees were also established with a similar function, and received support from the NTC to advance REDD+ Readiness activities at all levels. Supporting the NTC are various Working Groups (MRV Working Groups, Safeguard Working Group, Stakeholders Forum, etc.), established at National and State levels. They provided good and effective technical backstopping to the R-PP implementation in the country as they served as platforms for specialists or experts to provide input into the technical delivery of REDD+. The NTC supported several analytic studies and initiated iterations that led to the design of a socially and environmentally viable national strategy for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. They also supported the development of a national reference scenario of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (FREL), a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), a Safeguards Information System (SIS) and Multiple Benefits from REDD+. The up scaling of REDD+ of REDD+ across the country can also boast of a National Feedback and Grievances Redress Mechanism (FGRM) for REDD+, a proposed Benefits Sharing Arrangements (BSA) for REDD+ and enhancing Stakeholder Engagement in Readiness Process, and a National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) already at an advanced stage of completion.

The NTC has supported internal capacity building for staff under the implementation lines overseen by UN-REDD from 2012 to 2015 and later the FCPF from 2015 till date. Staffs of REDD+ Secretariats at both the Federal and State levels have gained more expertise to deliver on REDD+ technical areas and expand the knowledge base of REDD+ among various stakeholder groups, including communities. The programme has equally trained community members to participate in forest carbon inventory, and from a Community-Based REDD+ intervention implemented between 2015 and 2019 have built the capacity of communities to develop and implement community land use and forest management plans, which will be useful as Nigeria implements the NFMS and the REDD+ Registry.

The REDD+ programme has greatly advanced the capacity of Nigerians in the application of remote sensing and GIS capabilities to monitor forest changes, to generate and interpret Activity Data and to perform multiple benefits mapping. The programme established sampling plots in communities to estimate carbon stocks and Emission Factors, requiring that community members participated in the technical process. Staffs of REDD+ and other government institutions, and civil society partners have the capacity to update MRV database, including historic & real-time remote-sensing. Nigeria has developed a Forest Carbon Inventory (FCI) Standard Operation Manual to guide this process as REDD+ advances and expands across the country.

Nigeria has made remarkable progress in building indigenous capacity for REDD+ delivery. The country sees capacity building as integral to sustaining the consistent delivery of REDD+ actions and sustaining the long term outcomes of the programme and has therefore considered including it as an integral part of implementing the National REDD+ Strategy.

Criteria 5: Funds management capacity

Nigeria REDD+ institutional arrangement demonstrates effective, efficient and transparent fiscal management, including coordination with other development partner-funded activities. The assessment of performance rates the country as having made significant progress, coded in green below, as the REDD+ programme implementation followed due process in procurement based on both government and partner-funds.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Specifically, under the Additional Finance (AF), the NEWMAP Project Management Unit (PMU) with an experienced and qualified staff in conjunction with REDD+ staff have been implementing the finance services for REDD+ activities through a robust financial management platform, which handles the fiduciary responsibilities of the project.

A Procurement Officer for REDD+ activity was drafted from the Procurement Department of the Federal Ministry of Environment and has been assigned to render procurement services to the National REDD+ Programme so as to reduce the workload on the Procurement office of the PMU for the NEWMAP, through an arrangement to fast track the procurement processes of REDD+ activities in the country. Procurement under the AF has been in accordance with the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" (Procurement Regulations) dated July 2016 (revised November 2017) under the "New Procurement Framework" (NPF), and the "Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants", dated October 15, 2006 and revised in January 2011 and as of July 1, 2016, and other provisions that may be stipulated in the Financing Agreement. In accordance with paragraph 5.9 of the "World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" ("Procurement Regulations") the Bank's Systematic Tracking and Exchanges in Procurement (STEP) system was used to prepare, clear, and update procurement plans and conduct all procurement transactions for the project. The World Bank Standard Procurement Document under the New Procurement Framework was used for all international competitive procurement. The Project Procurement Strategy for Development (PPSD) which describes how procurement activities will support project operations for the achievement of project development objectives and deliver Value for Money (VfM) was prepared by Nigeria REDD+ programme with support from the World Bank. The PPSD clarifies institutional arrangements for procurement; roles and responsibilities; thresholds, procurement methods, and prior review, and the requirements for carrying out procurement.

Criteria 6: Feedback and grievance redress mechanism

Nigeria has achieved significant progress to demonstrate the effectiveness of its REDD+ feedback and grievance redress mechanism. The current assessment involving robust consultations at the sub-national rates the achievement as significant, indicating the underlying principles of good governance that Nigeria has evolved for its REDD+ programme implementation at both national and sub-national levels.

Significant progress	Progressing well, further	Further development	Not yet demonstrating

achieved	progress required	required	progress

Nigeria designed a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) to ensure that REDD+ process effectively engages communities and other stakeholders and serves to improve the planning and implementation of REDD+ towards preventing potentially adverse conflicts/impacts on project-affected communities. Thus, the country designed the FGRM to address the grievances that may ensue in the implementation of the REDD+ strategy. The design of the FGRM included robust stakeholder consultations at both national and sub-national levels, including communities and civil society. The process considered customary laws and the provisions of state and national levels regarding inclusiveness and disputes management and analysed the possible risks that may emanate from REDD+ implementation to provide a framework that will address possible stakeholder disputes. Therefore, Nigeria has developed a FGRM with a six-stage process for resolving grievances, comprising: (i) grievance reporting and acknowledgment, (ii) review of reported case for uptake, (iii) assignment of reported case to committee; (iv) the deliberation/decision on the reported case; (v) the communication of decision of the committee to an aggrieved person, and (vi) decided cases are closed and entered into the database.

For cases in which an aggrieved person is not satisfied with decision such cases may go through one or two more stages depending on the complexity of the appeal. Cases of appeal will first be considered at a first stage (vii) and decided there, with feedback given to the aggrieved person. If the aggrieved person is still not satisfied, the case will go to stage (viii) for final trial. Finally, if the aggrieved person is still not satisfied after this stage, he/she can only go to the courts for settlement.
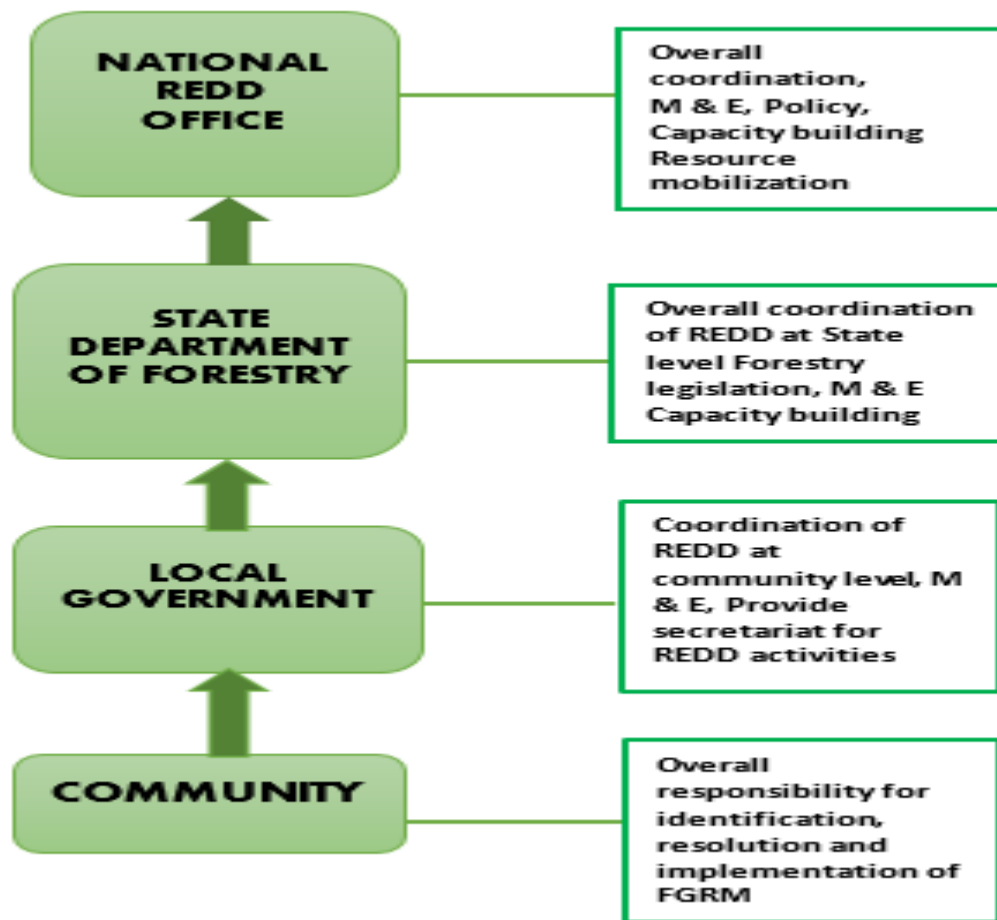
FIGURE 3: FEEDBACK GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM FOR NIGERIA REDD+ PROGRAMME

The National and State REDD+ Secretariats have collaborated with civil society groups to conduct trainings on Free, Prior and Informed Consent and raise awareness on the FGRM among communities. Communities are aware and able to apply their traditional knowledge and practices in implementing the FGRM, and where land use and forest management plans, have identified institutions and processes to implement the FGRM at that level. While implementing REDD+ Readiness, two dispute scenarios emerged in CRS requiring the application of the FGRM. The First was a carbon inventory activity carried out in 2015 without a detailed plan for community participation. The communities stalled the process and approached the REDD+ Secretariat and Forestry Commission for dialogue and develop a more inclusive approach for community capacity building and participation. This was done and replicated in other areas. At the same period, the National Park engaged the Forestry Commission and demanded participation in the inventory process when inventory activities could not be carried out in the Park without the consent of the management authority. Secondly, the CRS government superhighway project threatened community forests and protected areas and had no approved EIA before commencement of the project. Communities and civil society used the FGRM to engage with stakeholders and sought policy intervention from the Federal Government, thus mitigating the impacts from the superhighway construction.

As Nigeria transits to investment, the government will apply appropriate safeguards to reduce impacts and increase benefits while addressing the concerns of citizens and various institutions in implementing REDD+. Robust stakeholder engagement platforms are in place and a communication strategy will be implemented to continue to sustain dialogue, a consultations, and increase stakeholder awareness and participation to seek redress.

2.1.2 Subcomponent 1b: Consultation, Participation, and Outreach

Criteria 7: Participation and engagement of key stakeholders

Nigeria considers participation and engagement of stakeholders as crucial to implementing REDD+ in the country. Nigeria has achieved significant progress in enabling robust stakeholder participation and engagement in the REDD+ process from the community up to the policy level.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

The Government of Nigeria started consulting with stakeholders from 2009 when the idea of implementing REDD+ emerged. It was such consultations that informed Nigeria's decision to adopt a nested approach to align with the country's governance arrangement and enable effective participation including communities. When in 2012 Nigeria commenced its REDD+ Readiness implementation, the National and sub-national (CRS alone at the time) REDD+ Secretariats conducted stakeholder mapping from which a stakeholder engagement framework was developed for REDD+ in the country.

Over the years, functional and effective stakeholder platforms emerged, with budget lines especially from UN-REDD to fund regular meetings and targeted consultations with stakeholders. The Programme held several community town hall meetings and community-based trainings to discuss REDD+ concept and issues surrounding forest management and land use. The CRS experience was replicated across the new States, identifying community pilot sites where REDD+ actions are triggered and later replicated across a jurisdiction. Midway into the readiness phase, Nigeria benefited from the Community-Based REDD+ (CBR+) programme jointly funded by UNDP and GEF-SGP. CBR+ intensified civil society participation and capacity building for communities to understand and participate in the REDD+ process. It looked at community organising and capacity building for local community institutions including women, youth and men groups in 22 communities and provided opportunities for them to design replicas of REDD+ actions for which they were funded and guided to implement, with support from the civil society.

The programme developed information, education and communication (IEC) materials like flyers, handbills, customised t-shirts, carried out appearance in local and national television stations, and produced a few audio-visual documentaries as the means of disseminating information about REDD+ and intensify stakeholder engagement. Over 30 civil society organisation and over 120 forest dependent communities have effectively participated in the Nigeria's REDD+ readiness process. Some of these communities have on their own developed a consortium of community groups to as one in the engagement process as they identify and present their interests in promoting the integration of rural development in the REDD+ Strategy. The government also engaged the private sector and received input in the

entire process, providing clarity (included in the Strategy and Investment Plan as the case may be) on the investment side of REDD+.

The CBR+ programme strengthened the process of self selection of communities in the REDD+ process. The programme conducted several trainings for CSOs and community groups to be able to identify and analyse drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and identify priority options for addressing drivers, integrated in the REDD+ strategy. Thus, the design of the various CBR+ projects provided a platform for community engagement and empowerment for active participation in the national REDD+ processes, particularly, in developing the REDD+ strategy and other technical deliveries.

At a higher level, the Nigeria REDD+ readiness process triggered interest for inter-agency collaboration and policy harmonisation at national and sub-national levels on emissions reduction from AFOLU. The process strengthened the views on community forestry, prioritised reforms to address tenure issues and develop natural capital as well as enhance participation and benefit sharing. The programme is establishing unprecedented partnerships in-country and exploring opportunities for the government to adopt and integrate REDD+ principles and activities in planning and budgeting.

Criteria 8: Consultation processes

Significantly, Nigeria anchored its REDD+ process on widespread stakeholder consultations at national and sub-national levels, and down to involving local communities.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

This part of the self-assessment framework focuses on how consultation, participation, and outreach were conducted during the preparation phase and the platform for consultation with and participation of key stakeholders for future REDD+ programs. The self-assessment reviews how consultations with key stakeholders are performed to ensure participation of different social groups, transparency, and accountability of decision-making.

Nigeria REDD+ Programme is ensuring broad, inclusive and effective consultation and participation of all relevant stakeholders in the REDD+ process. Multi-stakeholder engagement and participation that is inclusive and representative gives legitimacy to the REDD+ processes and eventual implementation. That notwithstanding, certain cultural and prevailing social context restrict the participation of some actors (e.g., women, tenant farmers, etc.) from inclusive and participatory decision making. The Federal Government is committed to ensuring that stronger alignment and harmonization exist amongst policies and laws at Federal and State levels for the implementation of REDD+ in the country. In addition, legislations that support participatory arrangements of forest-dependent communities, including women and vulnerable people are in process. Also, the Nigeria REDD+ is committed towards building on strategic partnerships of the multi-stakeholders at all levels, including with private sector and civil society to optimize and aggregate the full potential of opportunities for REDD+.

Consistent consultation processes at the federal and state levels with a broad range of all relevant stakeholders, including with local communities and CSOs, have been part of the

REDD+ process in Nigeria. The institutional structures that were established at the national and state levels also provide for effective engagement and participation of key stakeholders.

The National REDD+ Secretariat has also developed a communications strategy as one of the key active tool that serves as a framework that would help achieve effective communication and collaboration between all the REDD+ stakeholders both at national and sub-national levels. It is designed to assist the Programme to deliver on all its four key objectives as defined by the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The careful selection of a wide range of channels and 'take-away' messages for the various audiences that the REDD+ programme is reaching out to, ensures the achievement of the communication goals of the programme which is to enhance understanding of, and participation in, the REDD+ and related climate change interventions among stakeholders, including local communities in order to raise awareness and knowledge management on REDD+ and climate change issues.

To ensure effective communications, the strategy, the messages developed are simple, consistent and unambiguous. Considering the sensibilities of the local communities to these kinds of interventions, the implementation of the strategy would also be responsive to managing expectations of beneficiary communities with regards to what to expect from the programme.

Recognizing the need for capacity building, the Strategy has recommended an implementation model that reflects the need to train the REDD+ Coordinating Unit and its key implementing partners in communication. It is also founded on the principle of building on existing initiatives and structures for sustainability and maximum synergy among different stakeholders.

The result of the assessment shows significant progress achieved in consultation and participation which are integral part of the national REDD+ process in Nigeria. The communication strategy has been evident for the careful selection of a wide range of channels and 'take-away' messages used in reaching out to various stakeholders, including local communities which have greatly enhanced their awareness and knowledge management on REDD+ and climate change issues. Consistent consultation processes at the federal and state levels have been evident for the effective engagement and participation of key stakeholders. Several public awareness and stakeholder dialogue on REDD+ at federal level increased through trainings and consultations towards developing the action plans for REDD+ readiness and implementation in Nigeria. Sufficient efforts were made to ensure the voices of forest dependent communities, and those of vulnerable groups among them were heard. This was achieved by first engaging the communities in ways that they feel part of the programme. For each of the states, the pilot sites coordinators were asked to identify someone that would represent them and act as liaison between the REDD+ programme and the communities. The identified people were recognised and supported to perform their roles.

Figure 4: Village Square meeting discussing REDD+

The building and strengthening of stakeholder platforms essential for successful REDD+ implementation e.g. stakeholder forum and networks of communities of practice was a continuous and an iterative process. The implementation of CBR+ strengthened community and NGOs participation particularly in developing the strategy; and it is possible that if commenced earlier, CBR+ had the potential to trigger more widespread participation and generate data for early results in the REDD+ readiness process, a lesson to be taken forward as Nigeria replicates REDD+ actions across the country.

Figure 5: Targeted consultation with a community women's group on REDD+

Through the various national institutional arrangements for REDD+ implementation in Nigeria, the programme widened consultations with relevant agencies to strengthen the policy and regulatory framework in Nigeria for REDD+ and related affairs. This outcome also

improved the knowledge of forest cover, land-use changes and carbon flows across Nigeria, as a precursor to up scaling REDD+ activities across the country. Finally, this outcome also included tangible efforts for a regional alliance for REDD+, through ECOWAS, likely making Nigeria a leader for REDD+ in the region, exchanging lessons and better influencing international negotiations around the UNFCCC and REDD+ matters. During the readiness phase, Nigeria hosted two REDD+ Universities at different times, including participants from Nigeria and other African countries, demonstrating the potential that Nigeria has to become a regional centre of excellence for REDD+ in Africa.

The Government has put in place a gender action plan to strengthen stakeholder participation, particularly women and other vulnerable groups in the REDD+ process. Legislations that support the participation of forest-dependent communities in forest governance, including women and vulnerable people already exist, with possibilities for improvement where there are gaps. Also, the Nigeria REDD+ is committed towards building on strategic partnerships of multi-stakeholders at all levels, including with private sector and civil society to optimize and aggregate the full potential of opportunities for REDD+.

Consistent consultation processes at the federal and state levels with a broad range of all relevant stakeholders, including with local communities and CSOs, have been part of the REDD+ process in Nigeria. The institutional structures that were established at the national and state levels also provided for effective engagement and participation of stakeholders.

Criteria 9: Information sharing and accessibility of information

Nigeria has progressed well to share and to make information about REDD+ accessible to Stakeholders.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

The limitation has been that information sharing and accessibility may not have been in the format and/or language that stakeholders understand. The most used and efficient means of communicating REDD+ in Nigeria has been through direct/face-to-face communication and the use of audio-visuals. The country has also used the print and electronic mass media (news papers, radio, and television) and web-based platforms to ensure that information about REDD+ reaches a wider stakeholder audience. However, the government is aware that a large number of the population is still not aware of REDD+, and for those who have had knowledge of the programme, do not understand the complexity of delivering REDD+ and where the country is at the moment. This level of knowledge gap exists among remote communities as well as urban dwellers even at the policy level, and has contributed to misinformation about REDD+, as well as high expectations from "carbon credit" mistaken for automatic incentive. In addition, remote locations/communities without means of connection were hard to reach, and depended on pre-scheduled town hall meetings to gain access to information and contribute to the REDD+ process. Limited levels of literacy among community members in particular required interpretation in the local language of any means of communication that was used, verbal or print. However, the use of audio visuals and pictures enabled understanding during the consultation process.

The government of Nigeria recognised the role that CBR+ played to intensify information dissemination among civil society and communities through direct town hall meetings and demonstration activities, and the feedback they brought into the Strategy development process. The lesson was that intensive targeted consultation that focused on particular stakeholder groups is fundamental to making information sharing more meaningful. Where appropriate, the programme developed and shared customised information materials like fact sheets/information briefs on REDD+, handbills and flyers, and developed radio jingles. The government also hired a communications expert to work with the National Secretariat to develop appropriate communication strategy and tools for REDD+. At the same time, the national programme has a website that is managed to update on REDD+ progress in the country, and accessible to all.

The government is working with the civil society to encourage and strengthen communities of practice and community organising to help build REDD+ knowledge base and continuous timely access to information. Over 50 civil society organisations are currently organised to engage in REDD+, and at least 70 communities (grouped in 4 clusters) have organised and engaging with the programme at the sub-national levels to engage in the REDD+ process. The logic of this arrangement assumes that good governance that enables the demand side of governance (communities, civil society and others) to engage with and hold the supply side of governance (Government and REDD+ management institutions) responsible for information sharing and accessibility will catalyse effective dissemination and access to REDD+ information.

Criteria 10: Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes

The government of Nigeria views both the process of consultation and the outcomes of consultation as critical to evolving a REDD+ process that is relevant to the national circumstances and responds to the peculiar issues that REDD+ seeks to address. In this regard, Nigeria has achieved significant progress.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

The outcomes of public consultations at both national and sub-national levels informed the design of Nigeria's nested approach to align with the country's governance arrangement and the need for inclusiveness. The outcomes of stakeholder consultations influenced the Programme's Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) revision in May and June, 2015. The revision maintained the four outcomes for programme implementation but reduced the number of outputs and activities for the remaining period of the programme. The revision did not adjust indicators, baselines, or targets. Specifically, it reduced the programme outputs from 14 to 10, and the activities carefully tailored towards the Warsaw Framework elements.

Consequently, robust stakeholder consultations contributed in the technical delivery of the REDD+ process including developing REDD+ Strategies and Investment Plans, Safeguards, SESA, GRM, NFMS, Benefit sharing, Gender Action Plan for REDD+ implementation and other operational tools. REDD+ process in Nigeria has been inclusive and iterative, usually reflecting changes and improvements from previous consultations. The different stakeholder engagement platforms and technical committees at the national and sub-national levels have been actively involved in the design, sometimes implementation and validation of technical

deliveries. Catalytic programme like the CBR+ was the outcome of stakeholder consultations to respond to capacity building needs of communities and civil society to effectively contribute to the REDD+ process. Participatory governance assessment (PGA) earlier in the readiness process (in 2012 and 2014) already identified the need for public disclosure and effective consultation, and informed the intentional stakeholder engagement strategy that Nigeria adopted for an open, accessible, transparent, responsive, and inclusive REDD+ process. The level of consultations in the REDD+ process ensured the public disclosure of technical activities/documents like the FREL, NFMS, and SIS through monitoring, peer reviews, validation processes and dissemination to peer groups and uploading to the programme's website.

Any limitation to the public disclosure of the Nigeria REDD+ process will arise majorly with the challenges associated with criteria 9 on information sharing and accessibility of information. Also, the programme realised that change in the tenure of governments created knowledge gaps where the knowledge bearers were politicians who were leaving office. The programme responded by intensifying the participation and capacity building of career civil servants to strengthen institutional participation and build institutional memory for the REDD+ programme. In addition, members of the Technical Committee decided to take responsibility for disclosing information about REDD+ in their various institutions, and by so doing provided and received feedback that have influenced the REDD+ architecture. In the same vein, the programme engaged community liaison officers who were members of target communities and had the capacity to understand and engage in the REDD+ process. Their role was to ensure that communities understood, and that government recognises and respects community interests all through the REDD+ process. The CBR+ provided a unique opportunity that articulated these various levels of iterations to attract the attention of policy makers to the issues and options regarding emissions reduction through REDD+ in Nigeria.

2.2 Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

2.2.1 Subcomponent: 2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

Criteria 11: Assessment and analysis

The summary of the work conducted during R-PP formulation and preparation presented an analysis of recent historical land-use trends (including traditional) and assessment of relevant land tenure and titling, natural resource rights, livelihoods (including traditional/customary), forest law, policy and governance issues.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Below is s a consolidated schematic representation of the process involved in developing the Nigeria National REDD+ Strategy (Fig.6):

Nigeria embarked on implementing a REDD+ Readiness phase to design a socially and environmentally viable national strategy for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and achieved significant progress to assess and analyse core issues related to REDD+ implementation in the country. A preliminary participatory governance assessment was conducted in 2012, followed by a more elaborate assessment in 2014 to identify governance issues including extant and customary laws, natural resource rights, livelihoods, knowledge gaps, cultural preferences, gender dynamics, benefit sharing, fiduciary systems and institutional arrangements relevant for REDD+. Between 2015 and 2019, the Programme initiated several analytic studies including identifying the direct and indirect causes of forest cover change through studies on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and their barriers, relying on historical and activity data as well as making future projections based on different socio-economic scenarios. The government also initiated forest valuation studies, conducted forest carbon inventories, assessment of policies, laws, and regulations, knowledge management analysis, gender studies and related technical activities to present a robust information base upon which Nigeria has designed an investable REDD+ Programme.

Specifically, support from UN-REDD advanced REDD+ readiness in CRS and institutional capacity building and policy direction for REDD+ implementation at the national level. It achieved the following:

a) Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) to identify issues and prioritise options to improve REDD+ governance.

b) Study of Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation to identify drivers and options for mitigating drivers.

c) Community Based REDD+ (CBR+) to build the capacity of local communities and civil society to participate in the REDD+ (readiness) process.

d) Sub-national Safeguards Policies and Measures to establish a framework for developing the national SIS.

e) Sub-national REDD+ Strategy for CRS and a national Framework Strategy upon which the National Strategy was eventually developed.

f) Forest carbon inventory with clearly demarcated inventory plots to estimate the forest carbon stock for the State.

g) Sub-national FREL for CRS, which was Nigeria's first FREL submitted to the UNFCCC.

h) Several capacity development activities involving government agencies, civil society, communities and other stakeholders, and building effective stakeholder engagement platforms and technical working groups to ensure an inclusive and a robust and iterative process towards achieving REDD+ readiness.

The FCPF grant complemented the activities initiated in CRS and expanded REDD+ readiness at a national scale to six other States including Nasarawa, Ondo, Edo, Ogun, Plateau and Kaduna states; and several more States making contacts and requesting support to be part of the programme. It expanded analytic work in the country and achieved the development of:

a) National reference scenario of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (FREL).

b) Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

c) Social and Environmental Safeguards and Safeguards Information System (SIS).

d) REDD+ Multiple Benefits.

e) National Feedback and Grievances Redress Mechanism (FGRM) for REDD+.

f) Benefits Sharing Arrangements (BSA) for REDD+ and enhancing Stakeholder Engagement in Readiness Process.

g) Gender Action Plan for implementing REDD+ in Nigeria.

h) National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS).

Grants from GEF-SGP and the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force supported additional analytical work in Cross River State to improve data on socio-economic needs, forest carbon, and develop the Investment Plan for REDD+.

Leading to developing Nigeria's approach to safeguards, a participatory analysis of the risks and benefits of a set of proposed PaMs were considered by the National Safeguards Working Group. Thereafter existing national and state policies, laws and regulations, in relation to the proposed PaMs were assessed as well as the status of their implementation. This was followed by consultations on the status of PLRs implementation and safeguard compliance in PLRs implementation, with relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, the country developed the principles and criteria to interpret the Cancun safeguards in accordance with Nigeria's specific circumstances; and applied the principles and criteria to the Nigeria REDD+ Strategy to complete the work on Safeguards, based on robust consultations and data collection across the country.

The construction of the FREL/FRL was initiated in 2016. Several consultations and studies were held to decide what the FREL will consist of including the scale and scope, as well as the estimation of historical emissions. In terms of scale, Nigeria opted for a nested REDD+ programme. The scope was based on activities, pools and gases included. For activities, only deforestation has been included in the present FREL/FRL. In the pools, the above-ground biomass which constitutes the main component/largest pool is included in the FREL/FRL considering their magnitude and cost-effectiveness to monitor the pools. Finally, for the gasses, only CO_2 emissions are included in the present FREL/FRL. Also, an acceptable national definition of forest was established. As Nigeria gains more experience and generates more data, the government hopes to expand the scope of the FREL to include more REDD+ pillars.

The core strength of Nigeria's REDD+ readiness programme was therefore based on three key factors: government's willingness to commit to the process; robust stakeholder consultations; and sound data gathering to elicit understanding and appropriate response to the issues on deforestation and forest degradation in the country.

Criteria 12: Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/ barriers to forest carbon stock

Nigeria made significant progress to investigate and seek to make provisions in the REDD+ Strategies to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and the barriers to forest carbon.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Nigeria conducted studies on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, first in Cross River State, and later adopting similar methodology to include the various agro-ecological zones more States participated in and consultations expanded in the programme. The country undertook in-depth qualitative and quantitative spatio-temporal (spatially-explicit) analyses of the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation to:

a) Conduct land use/land use change analysis and identify deforestation "hotspots";
b) Identify drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
c) Assess spatially explicit drivers in selected "hotspots";
d) Determine deforestation rates and trend.

With support from UN-REDD and in partnership with NASRDA, the country used the spectral change to find spectral difference between images sets from 2000 to 2014. Pixels with spectral differences were identified and examined to ascertain those that were due to deforestation. This resulted in the identification of major "hotspots" locations where deforestation was identified. The second set of image change analysis was based on the post-classification change algorithm in Idrissi Selva. This involved the comparison of landuse derived from images of 2000 and 2007 epoch on one hand, and 2007 and 2014 epoch on the other hand. The results were used to develop the transition matrix that revealed the transition of landuse categories over the two epochs of time. In addition, a change map was developed from the forest and non-forest mask for 2000-2007, and 2007-2014. This revealed the locations of forest to non-forest pixels and non-forest to forest pixels for 2000-2007, and 2007-2014. While the initial drivers study focussed on Cross River State as pilot, the FCPF support enabled the National Secretariat to apply methodology across other States to establish a national scenario of drivers.

Previously, Nigeria had carried out a well-coordinated assessment of landuse and vegetation changes cover in the country for the period between 1978-1993/95, undertaken by the Forestry Monitoring, Evaluation Coordination Unit (FORMECU) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture in 1995. Before then, the only notable attempt at vegetation and landuse mapping project was carried out in the late seventies using side-looking airborne radar and aerial photographs as sources of data. The government learned lessons from these previous exercises to carry out the vegetation classification and mapping during the most recent drivers study in REDD+. The exercise combined socio-economic analysis and ground truthing for direct contact with communities and observation of activities on the ground.

The result from the driver's study identified major drivers to include agriculture, forestry, energy, infrastructural development, and mining as major drivers; and the barriers to enabling forest carbon reduction in the country to include weak governance and poor policy

implementation, weak and unclear institutional arrangements, as well as economic, cultural, demographic factors.

The table below summarises the major drivers of forest-related emissions in Nigeria. The table includes the perceived importance to GHG emissions and the associated activities included in the FREL/FRL in order to justify the scope of the Strategy.

Table 3: showing major drivers of forest-related emissions and associated activities for FREL/FRL

Importance to GHG emissions	Key Driver	Associated Activity for FREL/FRL
High	Agricultural expansion	Mostly deforestation, some forest degradation
	High demand for fuelwood (firewood and charcoal)	Mostly forest degradation, some deforestation
	Infrastructure development	Deforestation
	Oil/solid mineral exploration and quarrying (and associated settlements)	Deforestation
Medium	Firewood collection	Forest degradation
	Timber harvesting	Forest degradation, some deforestation (on forest roads)
	Forest fires	Mostly forest degradation, some deforestation
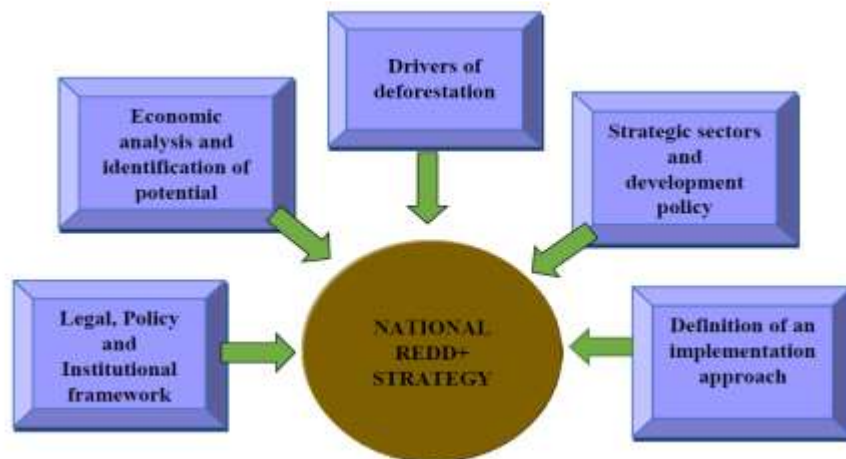
Fig. 7:   National REDD+ Strategy Supported by NFMS/MRV; FREL/FRL; SESA/ESMF and FGRM in the context of a result-based financing and extensive stakeholder engagement

Nigeria took note of the priority drivers and the issues inhibiting forest carbon emissions reduction to prioritise strategic options for implementing REDD+ in the country. This was captured in the Strategies that evolved and informed the priority Policies and Measures (PaMs) in the Safeguards. The clarity in the understanding of drivers is helping government

to consider most enabling legislations and laws for the implementation of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) that will guarantee the sustainability, transparency, and accountability of REDD+ and forest governance. The national and sub-national secretariats have established MRV units with functional GIS laboratory and facilities to continue to monitor and report forest cover change.

Criteria 13: Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities

The government has progressed well in establishing links between drivers and between drivers and REDD+ activities.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

The drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Nigeria include subsistence and commercial agriculture, logging and timber processing, agro-forestry industry, fuelwood/firewood extraction for energy subsistence and commercial energy supply for especially small scale industries. The activities of national and international investors in these industries escalate consumption beyond the subsistence level and acerbate deforestation and forest degradation all over Nigeria. These underpin the proximate causes and operate at the local level or have an indirect impact from the national or global level. They are related to international (i.e., markets, commodity prices), national (i.e., population growth, domestic markets, national and state policies, governance) and local circumstances (i.e., change in household behaviour).

Underlying causes of deforestation include complex interaction of local and global forces interacting in various ways to drive activities and agents of deforestation in the country. These underlying causes are multi-faceted and complex as these are dynamic and interact in various ways to influence the direct causes. The table below shows a schematic relationship between underlying causes and proximate causes of deforestation and forest degradation and associated agents in Nigeria based on the analytical work undertaken by the REDD+ process in the country.

Table 4: showing relationship between drivers

Underlying Causes / Proximate Causes	Demographic	Economic	Technological	Policy and Institutional	Cultural
Agricultural practices	Increased human population resulting in increased demand for agricultural land (forest conversion).	Need for food, income and nutritional securities by local communities and major source of rural employment.	Unsustainable agricultural practices and low agricultural productivity resulting in farmers being forced to open up new lands that are more fertile, and in a lot of cases in forested areas.	Subsidies that are in favour of non-climate smart agricultural practices. Uncoordinated sector linkages for addressing food security.	Slash-and-burn agriculture to compensate for low soil fertility problem. Use of fire to get rid of pests affecting soil organic content levels

Fuelwood (firewood and charcoal)	Increasing human population resulting in increased demand for fuelwood by households (both rural and urban).	Firewood/charcoal production as source of employment and alternative source of income. Alternative sources of energy to wood biomass fuel relatively more expensive (e.g., kerosene, LPG, etc.).	Unsustainable technology for charcoal production (earth kiln) and utilization (inefficient stoves).	Poor energy policy implementation leading to heavy dependence on charcoal and firewood for household energy requirements.	Perception/belief that food cooked using firewood or charcoal cooks, smells and tastes better than that from other sources of energy.
Timber harvesting	Increased human population resulting in increased demand for timber.	Global and local demand for timber resources by industry and households. Source of employment and income. Illegal timber harvesting.	Inefficient timber harvesting and processing technologies by concession holders and illegal harvesters.	Poor forest policy implementation leading to inadequate capacity and resource allocation for effective forest activity monitoring by the government.	Perception/ belief among rural communities that trees are God-given and for free access.
Land use and Infrastructure development	Increased population pressure demanding land for settlements, agriculture, and general infrastructure development.	Foreign direct investments and local investments for development driving deforestation and forest degradation through forest conversion.	Availability of advanced technologies for forest conversion. Lack of access to modern technologies for integrated land use planning.	Lack of enforcement of legal instruments promulgating integrated land use planning. Integrated land use provisions not covering customary lands.	Local community beliefs that once land on customary land is granted by local Traditional Authority (TA), it does not have to abide by government land use regulations but rather local by-laws that do not apply integrated land use planning.
Oil/Solid mineral exploration and quarrying	Increased population pressure for expansion of mining activities as sources of employment	Global demand for oil and solid minerals and key state economic activities for poverty reduction	Oil/mining technologies that are not green	Poor economic policy implementation leading to inadequate economic diversification and heavy reliance on oil	Local beliefs and attitudes that mineral resources are God-given and therefore open to free access.

| | | | | and minerals for national revenue.

Poor mining policy implementation that is negligent of environmental consequences. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

The Cancun Agreement sets the scope of REDD+ including a set of five REDD+ activities as
1) reduction of emissions from deforestation;
2) reduction of emissions from forest degradation;
3) sustainable management of forests;
4) enhancement of forest carbon stocks; and
5) conservation of forest carbon stocks.

This set of activities provides the framework to determine which activities to prioritise based on identified drivers. The Federal Government of Nigeria includes all five REDD+ activities in the scope of the Strategy, based on their mitigation and adaptation potential and contribution to sustainable development. However, due to current data gaps and resource constraints, limited confidence in implementation and monitoring of effectiveness of some activities, the country adopted a step-wise approach to bring in more REDD+ activities over time, after resolving these constraints and gaining experience and expertise. While forest degradation (from logging, fuel wood extraction, charcoal production, forest fires, etc.) may constitute a significant source of emissions, it has not been included in the present FREL due to lack of reliable, accurate and consistent data at state and federal levels. However, Nigeria did perform a preliminary assessment to approximate its significance Further improvement will require the inclusion of forest degradation which also leads to large emissions through timber harvesting, fuelwood harvesting, and forest fires. Therefore, deforestation is currently the only REDD+ activity that Nigeria includes in the FREL submission to the UNFCCC, with the intention of a progressive move to include degradation. The country is currently conducting a nationwide inventory to fill the 'black hole' in the database of the forestry sector. It is hoped that this exercise will generate broad and sufficient information on forest and forest-related activities from which to prioritise the next set of REDD+ activities, especially relating to degradation.

Criteria 14: Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance

Nigeria has achieved substantial progress to address natural resource rights, land tenure, and governance, but more work still needs to be done. The progress is marked in yellow t indicate that work is in progress because addressing these issues goes beyond the REDD+ readiness, requires multi-sectoral collaboration and is difficult to put a timeframe of when it can be addressed but constitutes major issues in implementing the Strategy, Safeguards, and SESA.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Analytic studies that the government initiated during REDD+ readiness assessed policy, legal and regulatory instruments for REDD+ strategy development and recommended relevant Policies, Laws and Regulations (PLRS) to inform the development of Strategy and Safeguards. While the purpose of the assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance were to identify key drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation, and the other pillars of REDD+, it equally address how shortcomings in current land use, and forest law, policy and governance contribute to the drivers and the options to address the gaps. The studies analysed the status of land and land tenure systems in Nigeria, recent as well as historical land use, including traditional systems, and land tenure titles in relation to natural resources and livelihood rights. It considered the most critical statutory legislations for the implementation of the REDD+ process in Nigeria, the Land Use Act of 1978. This is a legislation relating to land and property and covers every available portion of land throughout the country of Nigeria, and the forestry legislation both at the federal and state levels. Moreover, communities have byelaws that guide access to resources which mainstream into the customary and statutory laws. One key challenge for REDD+ implementation in Nigeria therefore is how customary land right and institution can be formerly recognized and upgraded by codification, review and reformed under statutory law in line with RIO declaration on environment and development UNCED 1992, which clearly recognize the relevance of customary law to the implementation of the REED+ programme.

Recognising this, the government has carefully crafted the REDD+ programme to recognise and respect customary practices, and identified actions to mainstream grievance redress, benefits, and gender. The government prioritises the sustainability of the livelihoods of communities, not only in terms of productivity but also including ownership and access to land based on customary practices. The REDD+ strategy recommended actions for improved management of protected areas (Reserves, Parks, and Sanctuaries) without encroaching into community lands, and to implement management plans that include community participation.

Stakeholders recommended that any intervention in natural resources governance with intent on engendering stakeholder participation, transparency and accountability would critically look at the patrilineal nature of the inheritance system in customary practices that restricts women's direct access and control to land, their denial of benefits accruing from not having access or ownership, and thereby their general participation in decision making in the entire forest governance spectrum. Because Nigeria presents a classical example of how rich natural resources endowments may not necessarily guarantee commensurate instruments of good governance, the REDD+ is designed to enable the long term socio-economic development of communities in Nigeria, as much as it addresses emissions and contributes to achieving the national development agenda. Therefore, the prioritisation of drivers and the strategic options to address the drivers will therefore contribute to strengthening participation of communities, secure their rights and livelihoods, enable equitable benefit sharing, and contribute to good governance of the country's natural capital.

Criteria 15: Implications for forest law and policy

The assessment considered implications for forest law and policy at both national and sub-national levels.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

The overarching constitutional provision that underpins Nigeria's REDD+ Programme is the country's 1999 Constitution, which specifies the roles of the three tier governments (the federal, state and local governments) and rights approach to promoting development. The assessment considered the impact that REDD+ could have on specific roles of the Federal Government in implementing treaties and other international instruments entered into by it concerning forest products and resources. REDD+ provides Nigeria the most efficient mechanism to implement and improve existing legislations. In particular, Section 20 of the 1999 Constitution stipulates, "the State shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest and wildlife of Nigeria". Again, Section 36 of the 1999 Constitution, as amended, which is contained in Chapter IV, guarantees access to justice to seek redress and the right to a fair hearing. This is a broad framework to promote and support REDD+ implementation. Furthermore, in the case of local governments, the Constitution provides for their participation in the development of agriculture and natural resources, of which the forestry sector is a major one, and REDD+ Strategy and implementation plans have adequately included.

Overall, the tenor of current legislations on forest management in the country substantially favours sustainable forest management, inclusiveness, and benefits to communities. This had set the pace for conducive legal framework to design the Strategy and Safeguards for REDD+ implementation that aligned with national policies, laws and regulations, and will remain instrumental as Nigeria transits into the next phases of REDD+, with some improvements and introduction of new measures to achieve long term emissions reduction and improved wellbeing of citizens.

Other regulatory frameworks like the Land Use Act (1979), National Policy on Climate Change (2012), Economic Recovery and Growth Plan 2017 – 2022 (ERGP), Agriculture Promotion Policy (2016-2020) and National Forest Policy (2020) including a National Forest Investment Plan (2019 -2023), Environmental Impact Assessment Act (Cap E12, LFN 2014), National Park Service Act, Cap N65 LFN, 2004, Land Use Act Cap 202 LFN 1990 Cap L5 LFN 2004, Minerals and Mining Act, 2007, Petroleum Act Cap 10, LFN, 2004: Environmental Impact Assessment Act, Cap E12, LFN 2014, National Policy on Climate Change, 2012, The Green Alternative Agricultural Promotion Policy, 2016-2020, National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (NREEEP): impact on REDD+ activities and outcomes. They constitute part of the Policies and Measures (PaMs) that Nigeria has considered in its national approach to Safeguards and Safeguards Information System.

While implementing readiness, the programme influenced the revision of the NDC and the inclusion of AFOLU in the revised NDC. Further engagements with policy makers advanced the legislative processes for the passage of a new Act on Climate Change, with the proposal of developing a Registry to capture, report, verify, and seek for result-based payments through the REDD+ programme managing the AFOLU sector.

2.2.2 Subcomponent: 2b. REDD+ Strategy Options

This sub-component demonstrates how the Nigeria REDD+ Strategy forms the basis for the development of a set of policies and programmes to reduce emissions from deforestation and enhancing carbon uptake from other REDD+ activities in the country.

Criteria 16: Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options

The government of Nigeria implemented an inclusive and evidence-based approach towards the selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options. The REDD+ strategy options were prioritised based on comprehensive assessment of direct and indirect drivers of deforestation, barriers to forest enhancement activities, robust analytic studies and selected through a transparent and participatory process that involved a wide range of stakeholders at both national and sub-national levels.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Progress was made towards the achievement of this target including backstopping work, stakeholder consultations including community town hall meetings, and analytical study on drivers. The spatially-explicit drivers of deforestation study led by NASRDA (Nigerian Space Agency) provided data for the AFOLU sector, including land cover change or Activity Data (AD) for years 2000, 2007, & 2014, deforestation hotspots, and satellite imagery. The government instituted MRV committee responsible for reviewing and integrating data and analyses, including historic data from previous studies and data from the drivers of deforestation study, which included remote sensing, GIS, and land cover change matrices. The land use/land cover data were down-scaled into lower strata such as the pilot community sites, forest reserves, and Local Government Areas. For CRS, additional financial support from Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force (GCF) supported complementary integrated field data collection activities and update of the CRS land cover map (2014) and the preliminary forest carbon sampling framework, elaborated jointly by CRSFC and Winrock International through GCF funding.

The programme engaged key stakeholders and experts to participate in analyses and strategic planning exercises that informed the REDD+ Strategy intended to serve as a model for learning and structural planning for REDD+ implementation across Nigeria. Data collected from analytic studies and feedback from stakeholders informed the Strategy to introduce measures to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The Strategy closely linked with the FREL where expected emissions reduction potentials of interventions, particularly those linked to reducing emissions from deforestation, was estimated. On this premise too, the government revised Nigeria's NDC to include AFOLU to leverage on the potential emissions reduction from REDD+ activities.

Criteria 17: Feasibility assessment

Nigeria REDD+ strategy options were assessed and prioritized for their social, environmental and political feasibility, risks and opportunities, and analysis of costs and benefits.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

The country developed a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and Safeguards and Safeguards Information System (SIS) to integrate social and environmental concerns into the policy-making process of REDD+. The SESA and SIS serve as essential Safeguards tool that the country programme will apply for the purpose of avoiding the negative impacts and enhancing the positive benefits from implementing REDD+, especially regarding socioeconomic, cultural, and livelihood development gains, governance enhancements, and broader environmental or biodiversity benefits. With this arrangement, the Nigeria REDD+ Safeguards will enable the mangers of REDD+ to monitor and report how the programme implementation respects safeguards to meet national standards as well as international standards, particularly the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) and the Cancun safeguards of the UNFCC.

Forestry and Macroeconomic Accounts of Nigeria formed part of several analytic studies of the Nigeria REDD+ readiness process. The study considered various use scenarios and corresponding costs and benefits from a wide range of economic, social, environmental and political context. The progamme used the results from this and other studies as well as ranking and prioritisation exercises with stakeholders to define the costs and benefits of planned REDD+ actions and their feasibility. The table below is an extract from the Nigeria REDD+ Strategy indicating the cost-benefit analysis and feasibility of the four strategic priorities in the Strategy document.

TABLE 5: STRATEGIC OPTION/EVALUATION METHODS			RANKINGS
COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS (CBA)	**FEASIBILITY**	**SESA**	
Priority 1: Reduce deforestation and carbon losses from forestry and agriculture as well as other land use activities including bush burning, charcoal production, mineral exploitation and grazing			
Improved agricultural practices will yield huge benefits e.g. US$19.6/tCO$_2$ for food crop & US$26.9/tCO$_2$ for agro-forestry and employment opportunities; and their opportunity costs are modest. Controlling bush burning, grazing, mining & charcoal production will reduce deforestation, but the opportunity cost is very high.	Nigeria's agriculture is receptive to innovation but can be constrained by uncertainties about likely outcomes of new technologies. Communities are aware of dangers of bush fires, grazing & mining. Proper policy implementation is key for this priority.	Priority will enhance food security & livelihoods. Programs e.g. irrigation & plantation can however raise issues about tenures & rights. Controlling the five parameters in the priority has a lot of benefits but may have some adverse economic implications in the short run.	1
Priority 2: Increase the country's network of forest reserves and conservation areas.			
The priority has little economic benefits of e.g. US$0.2/tCO$_2$ and alternative livelihoods if there is sustainable management. However, there could be economic cost to the country to the tune of US$0.1/tCO2 if,	Extant policy is robust; weak implementation and tenure rights are constraining.	Use of priority could constrain land rights, food security, and livelihoods. Thus, careful consideration needs to be given to compelling alternative land uses & tenure rights.	2

TABLE 5: STRATEGIC OPTION/EVALUATION METHODS			RANKINGS
COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS (CBA)	**FEASIBILITY**	**SESA**	
the forest area is strictly reserved. Implementation is however challenging e.g. in monitoring & enforcement.		This priority will improve forest cover, carbon stocking and livelihoods. Its implementation may be constrained by land tenure & rights.	
Priority 3: Protect Forest tenure and resource rights as well as ensure equitable, inclusive and transparent benefit sharing.			
Protection of rights and tenure promotes the realization of other strategies. However, it could adversely affect other pertinent forestry activities. The priority will stimulate interests of communities in REDD+ programming, but it is expensive to implement.	There are a wide range of socio-economic safeguards. However, individual and public interests may conflict. Some extant policies support equity e.g. National Gender Policy, but traditional practices are often constraining.	The priority will protect resources and cultural rights at the grassroots. However, it is potentially fragile, incoherent, opaque, and could be resisted by communities. Priority will enhance wealth creation and reduce inequalities. However, implementation should be cautious of elite capture.	3
Priority 4: Enhance investment in the sustainable forestry sector.			
Forestry sector investment (establishment of plantation of economic trees) yields benefits (e.g. US$66.3/tCO$_2$ & employment opportunities). However, mobilizing financial resources for forestry is challenging. Additional investment in sustainable commercial logging yield benefits (US$16.9/tCO2,), however, there could be some revenue loss due to replanting and reforestation of logged areas.	This priority will reinforce extant policies in forestry investments. Expanding forest estates especially in the southern part to promote investment is a challenge. This is a tendency to encourage deforestation if allocations and concessions are not well managed.	This priority will generate a lot of revenue for the country. However, poor logging may cause significant damage to residual stands as the rate of harvest may exceed the rate of re-growth/replanting and thus may result in forest degradation. To avoid this, harvesters should be monitored to ensure that they adjust volume harvested per hectare and comply with the global policy of planting three tree crops for every one harvested.	4

Criteria 18: Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies

The aim of REDD+ in Nigeria is to build a functional REDD+ framework as the central approach to promoting the environmental and sustainable development goals of the forest sector. As such, the government of Nigeria has achieved significant progress to harmonise priority REDD+ strategy options with policies and programmes in other sectors related to the forest sector.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Nigeria developed a REDD+ Strategy with a phased implementation approach. This provides clear timelines and will try to make REDD+ progress tractable. In the short term, the government intends to ensure the strategic improvement of institutions and governance systems, as well as of spatial plans and the investment environment, in order to fulfil Nigeria's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining economic growth. It is hoped that by 2025 Nigeria will have achieved this short term target and move into the implementation of the various plans that may have evolved.

Nigeria's NDC identified REDD+ as an efficient mechanism to coordinate emissions reduction from AFOLU sector. With the FREL, information for forests can now be further specified and estimated numeric targets proposed for emission reductions from the forest sector, with a view to a more robust contribution to the NDC. This would also allow monitoring of the progress toward achievement of the NDC targets, which has the overall vision to reduce the vulnerability and enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of all economic sectors and of all people to the adverse impacts of climate change.

To support the potential that the forest sector holds, a policy, legal and regulatory (PLR) framework has been put in place to secure the enabling environment for the sector to achieve its vision, objectives and growth trajectory. These consist of national forest, environmental, climate change and green growth policies, laws, strategies and action programmes. This will be enhanced further through implementing the National REDD+ Strategy. The table below shows a sample of some of the provisions in Nigeria's PLR framework as at April 2021 as government facilitate discussions with stakeholders on the revision of the NDC and the potential role of REDD+ in achieving the NDC targets by 2030.

Table 6: Nigeria's Legal Framework relevant to REDD+ (as compiled in April 2021 during NDC revision)

Policy/Law/Plan/Process/Institution	A sample of relevant provisions for the implementation of the NDC
National REDD+ Process - 2010-to date	The National REDD+ architecture is being developed. A Cross River State Strategy has been endorsed by the Government and calls for forest protection, restoration and sustainable management and use of forests and forest resources. A State and National Forest Reference Level have been submitted to the UNFCCC. The Country is in the process of finalising a • National Strategy • National Forest Monitoring System

	• National Safeguard Information System *See Section 7 for further details.*
National Forest Policy (2006)[1]	• Improve management of forest reserves and enforce low-impact logging, encourage improved forest tenure, rehabilitate and conserve key watershed forests, • Embark on massive afforestation and reforestation programmes • Increase terrestrial protected area coverage by 374 km^2, help private owners and communities reserve forests in the NFP • Restore 4 million hectares of forests under the Bonn Challenge Commitment (BONN)[2].
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020 (2015)[3]	• Restore up to 15% of degraded forest ecosystems, sustainably manage at least 10% of the country's national territory, upgrade the status of 10 forest reserves, game reserves and sanctuaries to national park status, and establish a National Forest Recovery Programme and designate areas for sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products.
National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change for Nigeria (NASPA-CCN) and Nigeria's National Disaster Risk Reduction Plan	• Strengthen the implementation of the national Community-Based Forest Resources Management Programme; • Support review and implementation of the National Forest Policy; develop and maintain a frequent forest inventory system; and initiate a research programme on climate change-related topics; • Promote sustained afforestation and reforestation programme to increase forest cover; • Encourage tree planting to prevent flooding and watershed management; encourage the use of alternative fuel to reduce the use of wood fuel. *See section 4 of the NASPA-CCN and Section 6.3 of the NDRRP for further details*
National Policy on the Environment (1998)[4]; National Water Policy 2016[5] and National Water Resources Bill (2016)[6]	• Promote the rational exploitation of forest resources; • Regulate forest activities; monitoring the quantitative and qualitative changes of forest cover; • Strengthen forest protection programmes; protecting flora and fauna in danger of extinction as well as forest reserves and encouraging reforestation and afforestation programmes and activities;

---

[1] See the National Forest Policy: http://www.fao.org/forest/15148-0c4acebeb8e7e45af360ec63fcc4c1678.pdf

[2] See Nigeria's Bonn Challenge commitment: https://www.bonnchallenge.org/about-the-goal#commitments

[3] See the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan: https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ng/ng-nbsap-v2-en.pdf

[4] See the National Policy on the Environment - https://www.nesrea.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/National-Policy-on-Environment.pdf

[5] See the National Water Policy - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jqZO0Ampl7K41zQ0saUvhSPvB8eSUWSC/view

[6] See the National Water Bill, 2016 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/17YtoHKq4mI1txBP5LadwYH3v-3x5xjjk/view

	• Encourage appropriate agroforestry practices *See section 4.9 of the National Policy on the Environment for further details* The Water Policy notes the need for • Forest as a measure to achieve policy objectives on environmentally sound management of water resources and effective water resources planning; whilst the Bill emphasises • Sustainable forest practices, agroforestry, reforestation as a measure to mitigate pollution of water resources.
Protected Area Plan and National Park Service Act Cap No. 65LFN (2004)	• These provide for the preservation, enhancement and protection of wild animals and plants and other vegetation in the National Parks and for the creation and expansion of protected areas for biodiversity management. This is a basis for the protection and sustainable management of forests as habitats for flora and fauna with co-benefits for reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.
National Environmental Standard and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA); Environmental Impact Assessment Act Cap E12 LFN (2014)	• The Federal Government through NESREA has developed the 33 <u>Environmental Regulations</u> published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria Official Gazette and 8 of these have a bearing on the management of forests. • The EIA Act considers environmental impact in respect of public and private projects. Relevant sections include: • Section 2 (1) requires an assessment of public or private projects likely to have a significant (negative) impact on the environment; • Section 2 (4) requires an application in writing to the Agency before embarking on projects for their environmental assessment to determine approval; • Section 13 establishes cases where an EIA is required; and • Section 60 creates a legal liability for contravention of any provision.
National Environmental (Control of Bush/Forest Fire and Open Burning) Regulations, 2010. S. I. No. 15. National Environmental (Protection of Endangered Species in International Trade) Regulations, 2010. S. I. No. 16.	• The Forest Fire Act provides guidance on control of fire practices • The Endangered Species Act provides for the conservation and management of the country's wildlife and the protection of endangered species as a result of over-exploitation; and • Invokes the need for protection and sustainable management of forests as habitats for wildlife.
Land Use Act (1978)	• Vests ownership of lands in Nigeria to the State Governors and hence a duty to uphold tenure rights in ways that ensure sustainable use and management of the country's forests
Nigeria's Economic Transformation Agenda in Nigeria's Vision 2020	• Increase the forest cover from 15% of total land area in 2016 to 25% by 2035

Economic Transformation Blueprint[7]	
The Minerals and Mining Act (2007)	• Prohibition of mineral exploration in or injury or damage to sacred/venerated trees; restoration and reclamation of mined lands; and carrying out of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before granting of mining licenses or permits.

2.2.3 Subcomponent: 2c. Implementation Framework

This subcomponent explains how the implementation framework defined institutional, economic, and legal and governance arrangements necessary to implement REDD+ strategy options. In prioritising and developing the REDD+ strategy options, Nigeria considered the country-specific land uses and legal and social circumstances, and has developed a national REDD+ intervention that is relevant to our political circumstances, socio-economic conditions, cultural identifies, drivers of deforestation, and development objectives.

Criteria 19: Adoption and implementation of legislation/ regulations

Nigeria has made progress to adopt regulations related to implementing REDD+ programme and activities in the country. The government worked with stakeholders evolve a REDD+ architecture that requires multi-sectoral effort to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and contribute to the development priorities in the country.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

To fully address the strategic and operational challenges that effective REDD+ implementation poses for Nigeria, the country needs to strengthen the existing institutional arrangements to enable REDD+ implementation. Doing so will require that the affected sectors adopt regulations related to REDD+ and that institutional arrangements for REDD+ coordination are strengthened to streamline oversight functions and eradicate duplication of statutory responsibilities. The Federal (national) Government is discussing REDD+ at the higher level of both the Executive and Legislatives arms of government to provide more enabling legislature and institutional framework for implementing REDD+ activities across the country.

Criteria 20: Guidelines for implementation

Nigeria has achieved significant progress to define benefits and carbon rights from implementing REDD+.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

In designing the benefits sharing mechanism for REDD+, Nigeria considered first of all the enabling platform for participation. Providing platform for effective participation, ab-initio, is an intentional approach of government to ensure that stakeholders gain adequate

---

[7] See Nigeria's Vision 2020 Economic Transformation Blueprint (2010)

understanding and knowledge that they require to understand access REDD+ benefits. Nigeria has learned this lesson early in implementing the REDD+ readiness phase, that poor communication from the early stages of REDD+ implementation is capable of forming wrong perceptions among several stakeholders, creating heightened expectations for financial incentives in the form of carbon credit that are not likely to be met. The country has therefore evolved its benefits sharing mechanism premised on the effective participation of stakeholders in the REDD+ process and a proper understanding of the forms of potential benefits from REDD+.

The concept of REDD+ payments, that is result-based payments and payment for ecosystem services are new to Nigeria. Benefits from forests have been viewed from consumptive and monetary perspectives. However, stakeholder consultations and analysis of PLRs for REDD+ design identified customary practices that support equitable and transparent benefit sharing among communities, and extant law in sub-nationals that codify benefit sharing based on different forest management regimes, including community-managed forests. The tables below show examples of state level benefit sharing formula and monetary value they attached to timber before the commencement of REDD+ readiness in Nigeria.

Benefit sharing formula (Government Revenue and Royalty)

SN	FOREST REGIME	PERCENTAGE (%) GOVERNMENT REVENUE	PERCENTAGE (%) ROYALTY ACCRUE TO COMMUNITY
1	Community forest	30	70
2	Forest reserve	50	50
3	Forest plantation	80	20

Wood dimension and the number of piece per lorry or truck

SN	WOOD DIMENSION	TYPE OF LORRY/TRUCK	NO. OF PIECES/TRUCK	Unit price N	AMOUNT/TRUCK N
1	2X12X12	6 Tyre Lorry	210	4000	840,000
2	3X9X12			4000	840,000
3	4X6X12			2500	525,000
4	4x12x12		105	7000	735,000
5	2X12X12	10 tyre truck	250	4000	1,000,000
6	3X9X12			4000	1,000,000
7	4X6X12			2500	625,000
8	2X12X12	16 tyre Long container	400	4000	1,600,000
9	3X9X12				
10	4X6X12				

Benefit sharing

SN	FOREST REGIME	LORRY LOAD	AMOUNT N	SHARING BENEFIT N	
				GOVT	COMMUNITY
1	Community forest	210 pieces	840,000.00	252,000.00	588,000.00
2	Forest reserve	210 pieces	840,000.00	420,000.00	420,000.00
3	Forest plantation	210 pieces	840,000.00	672,000.00	168,000.00

Some sub-national governments had some agreement with communities on a benefit sharing formula from revenue generated from community forests and forest reserves. Whether trees were felled in the reserve or community forest, a sharing formula of 70:30 was agreed with the community taking the higher share. Government and communities considered forest tenure rights in deciding this benefit sharing, as only communities with forests and from

where timber was harvested could benefit from this cash payment in the form of royalty. This benefit sharing mechanism was effective under what they termred the Single Tree Permit Guideline, which detailed the institutional arrangement and processes for timber extraction.

In the same way, communities established their own institutions, Forest Management Committees (FMCs) to interface with the government institution responsible for forest management e.g. Forestry Commission and be actively involved in identifying, documenting, and monitoring timber extraction. This ensures accountability and transparency in the process. To replicate this practice at the local community, communities put in place a system for social accountability where the FMCs fed back to their communities during town hall meetings. When communities received the Royalty, they usually met to take collective decisions regarding community projects that they can embark on. This way, communities built health centres, school buildings, town halls and even maintained their roads. Communities did not consider sharing the cash among members, but investing in projects that will be beneficial to all community members. Communities also have other systems of benefit sharing, using the age grade system, natural groups (of men, women, and youth), or the family groupings arrangement where the head, usually the oldest male member of a group of families, receives the share for his family and follows that pattern to ensure the heads of the sub groups of families receive a share of such benefits.

Criteria 21: Benefit sharing mechanism

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

The Nigeria REDD+ Programme has designed its benefit sharing mechanism to improve the existing practices and to include carbon and non-carbon benefits. The mechanism expanded beneficiaries to include communities, government, and the private sector, considering that the REDD+ strategy has provided for private sector participation and investment in the REDD+ process. Nigeria anchored its benefit sharing mechanism on the principles of relevance, transparency, equitability, and timeliness.

Nigeria is making significant progress to make the entire REDD+ process transparent, including it benefit sharing mechanism. The benefit sharing mechanism considered three approaches for benefit sharing:

1) Direct Payments for Services which is performance-based and in which benefit payments are in exchange of defined activity or outcome, often carbon;
2) Managed Fund whereby benefits are channelled through a central fund from where the benefits are distributed to beneficiaries in accordance to laid down procedures or to purchase goods and services, or invested as needed; and
3) Collaborative Resource Management where benefits flow directly from an external actor to a community or other local partners.

Being a vast country with different agro-ecological characteristics and peculiar opportunities for emissions reduction, the country adopts the various benefit sharing approaches. The benefit sharing mechanism in place will guide the sharing of incomes derived from emissions. The institutional arrangement for implementing REDD+ will inform the management of benefits, ensuring that communities access benefits from REDD+ equitably as other stakeholders. Given that aggregated carbon is traded on carbon stock exchanges, the

net incomes will be remitted to beneficiary group accounts and shared as agreed in memorandum. Forest lands transmuted into no-forest projects including crop plantations, infrastructure projects, etc. will make offset payments to conserved primary forest projects, reforestation projects, energy efficient schemes, industrial farms and renewable energy utilization projects within or contiguous with the forest area or community. The traditional owners of forest projects, in this case, through the land rights scheme, will be the recipients of the income from the emissions payments.

Criteria 22: National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities

Nigeria is making progress to develop and operate a national REDD+ registry that will be comprehensive and applied at both national and sub-national levels to capture all relevant information about REDD+ implementation.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Nigeria adopted a stepwise approach to develop a monitoring system that has capacity to monitor and report both spatial and temporal changes in land use. The country designed a national MRV system to enable the assessment of the results from REDD+ activities, as required for phase II, using two pillars that provide data on: (i) forest cover changes and activity data, and (ii) the Safeguards. The system is also designed to allow Phase III reporting on: (i) the assessment of the emission factors, and (ii) the evaluation of anthropogenic emissions by sources and anthropogenic removals by sink resulting from REDD+. Both national and sub-national systems are complementary in time, allowing the reporting of the activities during phase II and the performance under phase III, in an integral, progressive way. Furthermore, the system is complementary in space allowing States (sub-nationals) and Federal government (national) to report their activities.

In collaboration with international and local partners, the Federal Government conducted analysis to estimate the contribution that the forest sector can make to climate change mitigation in Nigeria, as the sector's input to the enhancement of the country's NDC. The analysis showed that the forest sector can mitigate 20% of its annual emissions of approximately 32,397,230 tCO_2e/year. This is equivalent to 6.5 million tCO_2e each year up to 2030, through emission reductions and enhanced removals. Based on this, the forest sector seeks to deliver GHG emission reductions and enhanced removals equivalent to approximately 65 $MtCO_2e$ by 2030 through the implementation of REDD+ strategies and programmes and other initiatives. The implementation of the targets can provide a key entry point for gender considerations which need to be integrated.

The figure below illustrates a model of links in the MRV system between a sub national and the national REDD+ process.
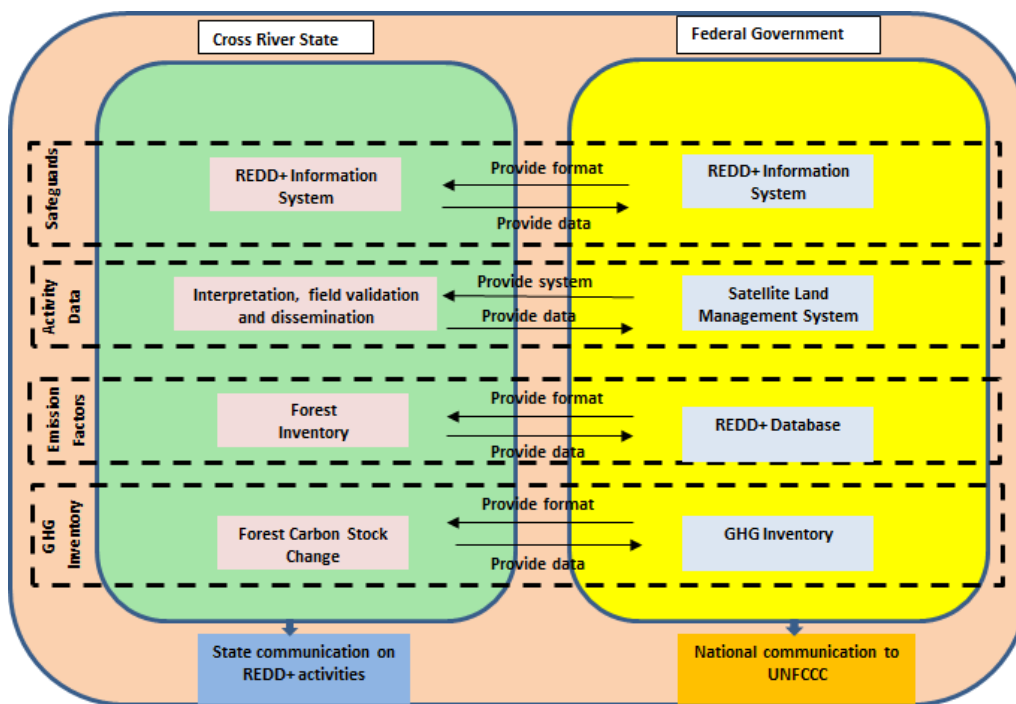
Figure 8: showing model of linkages in the MRV system between sub-national and national REDD+ processes

Nigeria is currently in the process of developing its national forest monitoring system that will be responsive to local circumstances and improve the existing systems. Community monitoring aspects will involve women and youth. The objective is to ensure the generation of data that would be transparent, consistent over time, and suitable for measuring, reporting and verifying, taking into account national capabilities and capacities.

Further progress is required to improve the monitoring system via the use of a registry. The Federal Government has passed a new Climate Change Act and has made provision in the Act for the development of a Registry to systematically and consistently capture emissions reduction at both national and sub-national levels. Discussions are ongoing at high policy level to empower REDD+ to take the responsibility to develop and manage a (REDD+) Registry to capture emissions reduction from AFOLU, and use the information that it generates from all the data gathering activities to update subsequent FREL and seek for result based payments.

Table 7: of emissions reduction potentials from different land use/REDD+ activities

	Protect, maintain and connect intact ecosystems and habitats	Manage ecosystems sustainably for multiple benefits	Restore degraded ecosystems, species and ecological processes
Opportunities for mitigation through actions related to FOREST ECOSYSTEMS	• Avoided forest conversion: 9.72 Mt CO2e/yr •	• Improved natural forest management: 22.71 Mt CO_2e/yr • Reduced woodfuel harvest: 10.07 Mt CO_2e/yr	• Restore forests: 20.76 Mt CO2e/yr

Opportunities for mitigation through actions related to WETLANDS AND PEATLANDS	• Avoided peat impacts: .71 Mt CO2e/yr	~ No data	• Peat restoration: .87 Mt CO2e/yr
Opportunities for mitigation through actions related to COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS	• Avoided mangrove impacts: .97 Mt CO2e/yr	~ No data	• Mangrove restoration: .26 Mt CO2e/yr
Opportunities for mitigation through actions related to GRASSLANDS AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	~ No data	• Improved fire management in savannas: 2.77 Mt CO2e/y • Trees in agricultural lands/agroforestry: 45.38 Mt CO2e/yr • Optimal grazing intensity: 1.3 Mt CO2e/yr	~ No data

Table showing emissions reduction target from different landuse

Mitigation action	Carbon emission reduction target including enhanced removals in brackets (Mt CO_2e)	Area target
Improved natural forest management	60.04 (18.01)	260,086 ha of natural forests in the southern belt and southwest quadrant of the country
Forest restoration	53.01 (15.90)	233,998 ha of degraded forest area across the states in the southern belt, southwest quadrant and in states located in the savanna ecological zone of the country.
Increased forest protection	21.61 (6.48)	93,604 ha of forest throughout the country
Reduced fuelwood harvest	9.03 (2.71)	Reduce the area of forestland used for fuelwood harvesting by 39,141 ha
Protection and restoration of mangrove forest ecosystems	6.07 (1.82)	26,282 ha of mangrove ecosystems across all the coastal states in the Niger Delta
TOTAL	150.76	

In maintaining consistency with key COP decisions (Decision 1/CP.16 and Decision 2/CP.17) the national-level data and information generated will be provided through Nigeria's biennial update reports (BUR) for submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

2.2.4 Subcomponent: 2d. Social and Environmental Impacts

Criteria 23: Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues

Nigeria achieved significant progress to identify and analyse applicable social and environmental safeguard issues that are relevant to the country context via relevant studies and diagnostics in the REDD+ readiness consultation processes.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Nigeria adopted a country approach to REDD+ safeguards. A Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+ and natural resource management in Nigeria conducted through a pilot in Cross River State provided a major baseline for the safeguards work. For effective coordination and stakeholder participation, a National Safeguards Working Group (NSWG) was constituted in late 2013. Between 2015 and 2016, the NSWG with support from UN-REDD led consultations and technical work for the preparation of the key components of Nigeria's country approach to safeguards, following UNFCCC Decisions. After several other analytic investigations and consultations to prioritise issues and options, the programme developed principles and criteria that interpreted the Cancun safeguards in accordance with CRS's and Nigeria's specific circumstances, which were applied to refine the strategic objectives of the CRS REDD+ Strategy and the National Framework Strategy.

Afterwards, support from FCPF expanded REDD+ to more States in Nigeria and enabled the Federal Government to develop a National Safeguards and Safeguards Information System. The development of Nigeria's Safeguards and Safeguards Information System leaned strongly on existing REDD+ Stakeholder engagement platforms at both national and sub-national levels and the results from analytic work at both national and sub-levels in all the participating States. The process utilised screening tools to develop the Principles and Criteria (P&C) for interpreting the Cancun Safeguards (that Nigeria wholly adopts). The P&C were applied to design Policies and Measures (PaMs) to ensure safeguards considerations are mainstreamed into REDD+ actions so that they yield carbon and non-carbon benefits, as well as present low-risk options for reducing emissions. Only those PaMs that adequately met the criteria were considered for inclusion in the SIS.

With the SIS, Nigeria intends to provide verifiable information during implementation on how Safeguards have been addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities in the country. The SIS considers the existing policies, institutions, processes and monitoring arrangements regarding Safeguards at both sub-national and national levels, and links with other REDD+ operational systems to create the enabling environment for measuring and reporting REDD+ compliance. Nigeria's ambition is to demonstrate transparently how REDD+ activities have applied the REDD+ Safeguards in conformity with international legal obligations with the intention that this will lead to results-based payments from REDD+ implementation in the country.

The table 8 shows the principles and criteria for Safeguards in Nigeria.

Table 8: showing principles, criteria and indicators for Nigeria REDD+ programme

PRINCIPLES	CRITERIA	INDICATORS
a) **[REDD+] actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements**	**a1.** REDD+ PaMs support and are consistent with the National Forest Policy (2020), National Policy on Environment (1999), National Policy on Climate Change (2012), National Biodiversity strategy and Action plan (NBSAP), and other relevant national and state PLRs. **a2.** The proposed REDD+ PaMs should support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 14, African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and other relevant international conventions that Nigeria is signatory to. **a3**. REDD+ PaM addresses UNFCCC Safeguards	**a1.1** Number of REDD+ projects consistent with National Forest Policy (2020), National Policy on Environment (1999), National Policy on Climate Change (2012), National Biodiversity strategy and Action plan (NBSAP), and other relevant national and state PLRs. **a2.1** Number of REDD+ projects consistent that are consistent with relevant international conventions that Nigeria is signatory to. **a3.1** Number of UNFCCC Safeguards addressed by the proposed REDD+ PaM. **a.3.2** Legal and administrative steps in place to support enforcement and compliance with relevant Safeguards.
b) **Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty**	**b1**. REDD+ PaM supports adequate information about REDD+ including operational documents, plans and reports is available and publicly accessible. **b2**. Institutional arrangements for REDD+ implementation are clearly defined, transparent, effective and accountable. **b3.** REDD+ PaM clarifies and strengthens forest/land tenure arrangements. **b4.** REDD+ PaM clarifies benefits sharing arrangements among stakeholders, including forest dependent communities and	**b1.1:** Number of REDD+ documents that are available and accessible in the right formats by the public. **b1.2:** Legislative and regulatory measures necessary to ensure timely and appropriate dissemination of REDD+ and REDD+ related information in place and enforced (e.g. Freedom of Information Act). **b2.1:** Number of REDD+ governance structures with clear terms of reference and internal regulations. **b2.2:** Number of meeting minutes or other reports of REDD+ governance structures that demonstrate adherence to the terms of reference and internal regulations and are shared publicly. **b2.3:** Number of REDD+ activities/projects jointly implemented across sectors and the outcomes are shared publicly. **b2.4:** Number of persons and groups outside the public sector such as civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) community based organisations and forest dependent communities participating in REDD+ activities as a result of transparent and effective forest governance structure. **b3.1:** Number of decisions taken on land tenure based on access to REDD+ information.

	vulnerable groups like women. **b5.** Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanisms are established and functional for REDD+ implementation. **b6.** REDD+ budgets and expenditure follow due process with integrity, transparency and accountability. . **b7.** The proposed REDD+ PaM promotes gender equality in its design and implementation **b8.** REDD+ PaM improves capacity to meet existing institutional mandates.	**b4:** Number of groups, individuals (disaggregated by sex) and institutions benefitting from REDD+ implementation. **b5.1:** Number of feedback and grievances arising from REDD+ implementation. **b5.2:** Number of feedback and grievances addressed by REDD+. **b6.1:** Number of REDD+ contracts awarded through competitive bidding. **b6.2:** Number of projects for which annual audited reports have been submitted. **b7.1:** Number of women and men participating s in REDD+ activities, decision-making, and benefits. **b7.2:** Relative impacts of REDD+ activities on women and men. **b8.1:** Number of institutions with improved capacity to implement REDD+. **b8.2:** Number of individuals linked to institutions with improved capacity to implement REDD+
c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	**c1.** REDD+ actions recognise and respect local communities' traditional knowledge, cultural heritage, norms, statutory and customary rights, which are consistent with the relevant policies and laws. **c2.** Rights of forest dependent communities to lands and resources relevant to REDD+ actions are identified and mapped. **c3.** REDD+ actions support free, prior and informed consent of forest dependent communities on activities that may affect their livelihoods, settlements, and rights to lands and resources. **c4.** REDD+ activities support equitable access to forest resources and benefits sharing. **c.5.** Project affected populations particularly in forest dependent communities get appropriate compensations in the effect that REDD+ actions result in involuntary resettlement and/or economic displacement.	**c1.1:** Number of communities with registered community land use and/or forest management plans with support from REDD+ actions. **c1.2:** Number of sites of cultural importance identified and respected through appropriate REDD+ or REDD+ related measures. **c2.1:** Number of maps of community-managed lands and resources supported by REDD+. **c3.1:** Number of REDD+ projects that demonstrate compliance with the Community Consultation and FPIC Guidelines. **c3.2:** Number of public awareness events occasioned by REDD+ actions to inform the general public on rights and ways to exercise the rights. **c4.1:** Number of REDD+ projects for which the cost and benefits are assessed for all stakeholder groups. **c5.1:** Registry of types of benefits shared with different stakeholder groups as a result of REDD+ developed and accessible by the public.

	C6. REDD+ PaM avoids all forms of discriminations, such as gender inequality and social stratification.	**c61:** Number of projects that have conducted environmental and social risk screening, and applied safeguards against all forms of discrimination.
	c7. REDD+ actions respect existing administrative and judicial recourses to justice, and strengthens procedures to resolve disputes among forest dependent communities (e.g. grievance redress mechanisms).	**c7.1:** Number of customary laws codified in line with extant laws. **c7.2:** Number of grievances reported and addressed related to REDD+ implementation.
	c8. REDD+ provides capacity building support to local communities' rights and interests.	**c8.1:** Number of communities with organised local institutions seeking community rights and interests as a result of REDD+ actions.
	c9. The proposed REDD+ PaM should define the roles, legitimacy and responsibilities of stakeholders to reduce corruption and enhance transparency and accountability.	**c9.1:** Number of projects or REDD+ actions that are implemented following defined roles, legitimacy and responsibilities of stakeholders. **c9.2:** Number of reported cases of corruption and sanctions influenced by REDD+ implementation.
	c10. REDD+ actions provide access for forest dependent communities to forest resources and relevant markets in order to support livelihoods and income diversification from forest management.	**c10.1:** Number of REDD+ communication tools developed and used to translate technical information to formats that are accessible by stakeholders, particularly forest dependent communities and vulnerable groups like women. **c10.2:** Number of households in forest dependent communities with improved/diversified livelihoods and income from REDD+ implementation.
	c11. REDD+ actions recognise and respect customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements.	**c11.1:** Number of documented and applied traditional ecological knowledge and practices applied to REDD+ implementation. **c11.2:** Area of forests and extent of biological diversity managed and/or protected by traditional cultural practices in REDD+
	c12. REDD+ actions develop or strengthen national arrangements to ensure that agencies and appropriate institutions and mechanisms exist to protect and fulfil the rights of forest dependent communities.	**c12.1:** Institutions and mechanisms to recognise and respect the rights of communities clearly demonstrate how community rights are respected. **c12.2:** . Agencies to promote the rights of forest dependent communities have the means necessary for the proper fulfilment of their assigned functions.
d) The full and effective participation	**d1.** REDD+ actions identify and map stakeholders including forest dependent communities for participation in all REDD+	**d1.1:** Number of stakeholders identified and engaged through REDD+ stakeholder engagement and/or

of relevant stakeholders, in particular local communities [in REDD+ actions]	processes.	management plan. **d1.2:** Number of stakeholder engagement platforms mapped and operational, including communities of practice as a result of REDD+.
	d2. Stakeholders participate in REDD+ planning and implementation through legitimate and accountable representatives.	**d2.1:** Number of institutions, groups, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and local community institutions participating in REDD+ planning and implementation. **d2.2:** Number of participants disaggregated by gender (male and female), participating in each REDD+ consultation and actions. **d2.3:** Number of REDD+ plans and reports communicated and adopted as a result of stakeholder consultations.
	d3. REDD+ plan and actions enable stakeholders to have the information that they need to participate effectively throughout the REDD+ process.	**d3.1:** REDD+ information available in formats usable by different stakeholders. **d3.2:** Number of stakeholders who have access to REDD+ information and are using them to participate effectively in REDD+ activities.
	d4. REDD+ plans and actions (PaMs) incorporate regular feedback from stakeholders, particularly forest dependent communities.	**d4.1:** Number of REDD+ plans and actions/projects demonstrating how stakeholder feedbacks have been integrated. **d4.2:** Type of capacity building and other support to stakeholder representatives to effectively participate in REDD+ and provide feedback to their constituents.
e) [REDD+] actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that REDD+ actions are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and	**e1.** REDD+ process adopts appropriate forest and biodiversity definition based on national circumstances, and maps ecosystem and environmental services.	**e1.1:** Nigeria adopts a forest and biodiversity definitions for REDD+ implementation. **e1.2:** Number of high conservation value (HCV) areas identified and mapped in areas where REDD+ will be implemented.
	e2. REDD+ PaM fully adheres to National Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment requirements, as well as those of other relevant international obligations.	**e2.1:** Number of REDD+ actions that comply with national and international environmental standards/guidelines.
	e3. REDD+ actions avoid adverse impacts on natural forests and enhance biodiversity conservation and other ecosystem services, both within and outside forests.	**e3.1:** Hectares of natural forests, high carbon value forests and biodiversity hotspots managed with REDD+ support.
	e4. REDD+ actions avoid adverse social impacts and promote and enhance economic and social well-being, with special attention to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups.	**e4.1:** Number of projects that have completed environmental screening and classification, for which SESA and ESMF have been applied.
	e5. REDD+ actions are not used to convert natural forests or other areas important for	

their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits.	maintaining biodiversity and other ecosystem service priorities to other land uses, even conversion from natural to planted forest. **e6.** REDD+ actions contribute to diversified livelihoods and food security.	**e5.1:** Number of concessions supported by REDD+ certified to sustainability standards for selected value chains based on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (e.g. UTZ certification programme, Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil - RSPO, Forest Stewardship Council -FSC etc.). **e6.1:** Number of REDD+ projects promoting climate smart agriculture in priority value chains. **e6.2:** Changes in household income and food productivity from diversified livelihoods in areas where REDD+ is implemented. **e6.3:** Number of people that have benefited from jobs through REDD+ actions.
f) Actions to address the risks of reversals.	**f1.** REDD+ Strategy and actions identify direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. **f2.** REDD+ Strategy, systems and actions effectively address direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. **f3.** REDD+ actions build capacity for forest monitoring and sustainable forest management. **f4.** The proposed REDD+ PaM should encourage the provision of livelihood options to reduce pressure on forest and ensure long-term financial and ecological sustainability.	**f1.1:** Existence of spatial and socio-economic analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. **f2.1:** Number of projects designed and implemented to explicitly address local drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. **f3.1:** Number of individuals, groups and institutions with improved capacity from REDD+ actions and participating in forest monitoring and sustainable forest management. **f4.1:** Number of REDD+ projects supporting with integrated landscape management and livelihoods improvement. **f4.2:** Hectares of forest and critical ecosystems preserved as a result of REDD+ actions.
g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions	**g1.** REDD+ PaM addresses the underlying and proximate drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. **g2.** REDD+ implementation adopts nature-based solution approach, are jurisdictional in scale and apply across all agro-ecological zones in Nigeria. **g3.** REDD+ plans and actions support the development and respect of participatory land use and forest management plans (considering	**Note:** Indicators addressed in Safeguard (f)

integrated landscape management approach).	

Criteria 24: REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts

The social and environmental safeguards were assessed using available guidance on the SESA and according to the FCPF RAF. This was done to ensure that all the measures addressing likely social and environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities were integrated into the national REDD+ strategy.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

There are four broad options as a set of strategic response to enable Nigeria to achieve the objectives of its REDD+ Strategy. These options focus on REDD+ activities to address drivers of deforestation, improve forest and climate change governance, attract incentives, and enable equitable access to benefit and grievance redress. **The first** strategic options is to reduce deforestation and carbon losses from forestry and agriculture as well as other land use activities including bush burning, charcoal production, mineral exploitation and grazing. **The second** strategic option seeks to increase the country's network of forest reserves and conservation areas in such way that communities are empowered to participate meaningfully in protected area management within a system that secures their rights and livelihoods. **The third** option is to protect, promote and police forest tenure and resource rights as well as ensure equitable, inclusive and transparent benefit sharing. **The fourth** option will enhance investment in a sustainable forestry sector.

These strategic options are in sync with the options that the country's SESA prioritised, and which were contained in the R-PP, supported by analytic studies, reviews of government policies and programmes, and several iterations with stakeholders. The SESA and R-PP recommend five similar strategic options, including:
1) clarification of forest and land tenure system to promote tenure security for local communities;
2) forest and land use zoning and planning;
3) support forest protection through sustainable forest management;
4) agricultural intensification as alternative agricultural system;
5) sustainable alternative energy to reduce fuelwood consumption as local energy option.

In addition, the SESA included enhancement of forest carbon stocks, livestock management, and promotion of alternative livelihoods, equitable benefit sharing, watershed protection, Grievance Redress Mechanism, and protected area system as other strategic options. The R-PP on the other hand considered reforestation and forest enrichment as additional options.

As such, the options in the Strategy considered the recommendations in the SESA to support REDD+ actions that will demarcate forest boundaries, control the expansion of activities through initiatives such as climate smart agriculture (CSA), establish timber and fuel wood lots and other interventions into the forest area to reduce drivers. Moreover, interventions should not displace forest cover, and effective community-level institutions are required to oversee the development and implementation of agreed forest management actions and

ensure that costs and benefits are shared equitably among local forest users. The SESA and Strategy options protect the rights of communities, and ensure that REDD+ interventions will build on effective community forestry experiences to benefit both women and men equally. To achieve this, the strategic options in both the SESA and REDD+ Strategy proposed a comprehensive review of policies, laws and programmes on land use to secure rights of communities to natural resources in Nigeria. Government at the federal, state and local levels should allocate sufficient resources for effective implementation of reform policies and laws Encouraging communities to make bylaws or strengthen any existing ones that¬ specifically address and discourage the existing unsustainable open access regime of forest lands and resources and the practice of shifting agriculture influenced in part by land ownership interest. Legal recognition need to be accorded to these laws and formerly integrated into customary and community byelaws. The SESA and Strategy both prioritised the strengthening of stakeholders' capacities across the various levels of REDD+ implementation to address the drivers of deforestation, improve coordination and financial management, ensure equitable benefits sharing and effective conflict mitigation and resolution.

The REDD+ Strategic Options integrated the outcome of SESA to define mitigation measures to address drivers, manage risks arising from implementation, and support capacity building measures to implement and sustain the outcomes from REDD+ actions in the country. Implementing the options in the Strategy will include the application of appropriate measures to avoid or properly compensate for voluntary displacement and ensure continued access and use of resources especially by forest dependent communities.

Criteria 25: Environmental and Social Management Framework

Nigeria has developed an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and combined with the Resettlement and Policy Framework (RPF) to ensure that REDD+ process/implementation integrates issues related to safeguards and linked through the Safeguard Information System.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was an outcome of the SESA and provides guidance on meeting World Bank (WB) Operational Policy (OP) requirements related to environmental and social issues and concerns. An ESMF is needed when a project consists of a program and/or series of subprojects and the impacts cannot be determined until these sub-project details have been further identified and defined. Nigeria's ESMF therefore focussed on the REDD+ Strategy and all the interventions that are meant to implement the strategy, prioritising implementation in Cross River State where the country will gain experience and lessons for replication to other States.

Nigeria REDD+ programme has put in place policies and measures that will contribute to securing forest rights and livelihoods of local communities, improving biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, and providing greater economic opportunities. This will ensure that REDD+ implementation presents opportunities to enhance social and environmental benefits, rather than risks. The Environmental and Social Management Framework will ensure that REDD+ process/implementation integrates issues related to

safeguards and linked through the Safeguard Information System[8]. It has specified the appropriate roles and responsibilities of the implementing agencies and outlined the necessary reporting procedures for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns in REDD+ implementation.

This ESMF established a management framework for the identified potential risks, opportunities and proposed preliminary mitigation measures in the SESA document. It also set out monitoring and institutional measures to be taken during operations of these activities, to eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts, offset them, or reduce them to acceptable levels. The Policy requires disclosing the ESMF report to the public through different accessible media including the world Bank Info shop. As part of the ESMF process, proposed strategic options and targeted interventions under REDD+ will be planned at the local level and required to comply with the requirements set out under World Bank safeguard policies. As Nigeria sets to transit into the next phase of REDD+, the government seeks to ensure that REDD+ activities aim to reduce deforestation, enhance the environmental services contribution of forested areas, promote reforestation, reduce poverty, and encourage economic development. The options in the ESMF and Strategy are thus linked to ensure that REDD+ implementation presents opportunities to enhance social and environmental benefits, rather than risks.

2.3 Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/ Reference Levels

Criteria 26: Demonstration of methodology

Nigeria achieved significant progress to develop both sub-national and national forest REL or RL in both cases using a clearly documented methodology, based on a step-wise approach.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

The construction of the FREL in Nigeria began with the development of a sub-national FREL for Cross River State which was submitted to the UNFCCC for the technical assessment in 2018. The present national FREL is a follow up to the sub-national FREL, which up-scaled it to national level. The entire FREL process was subjected to a wider stakeholder consultation and review to ensure that it reflects the expectations of all stakeholders, and to also consider technical inputs from this broader group. Nigeria decided that the development of its FREL is a stepwise process in which the elements are improved and updated as soon as information that is more accurate becomes readily available. With the FREL, the country will be able to measure REDD+ performance against baselines and seek for results based payments. Emission Factors (EF) and Activity Data (AD) in the current FREL were estimated by ecological zones. The annual emissions for the period 2006-2016 was estimated as the product of the average annual deforestation (Activity Data: AD) and the estimated CO_2e per hectare (Emission Factor: EF) by ecological zone, then summed up to provide the average annual emissions. Average values for emissions and their confidence intervals were also computed in order to determine the upper and lower limits of the estimates.

---

[8] UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71d (Cancun, 2010). Available at:https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf
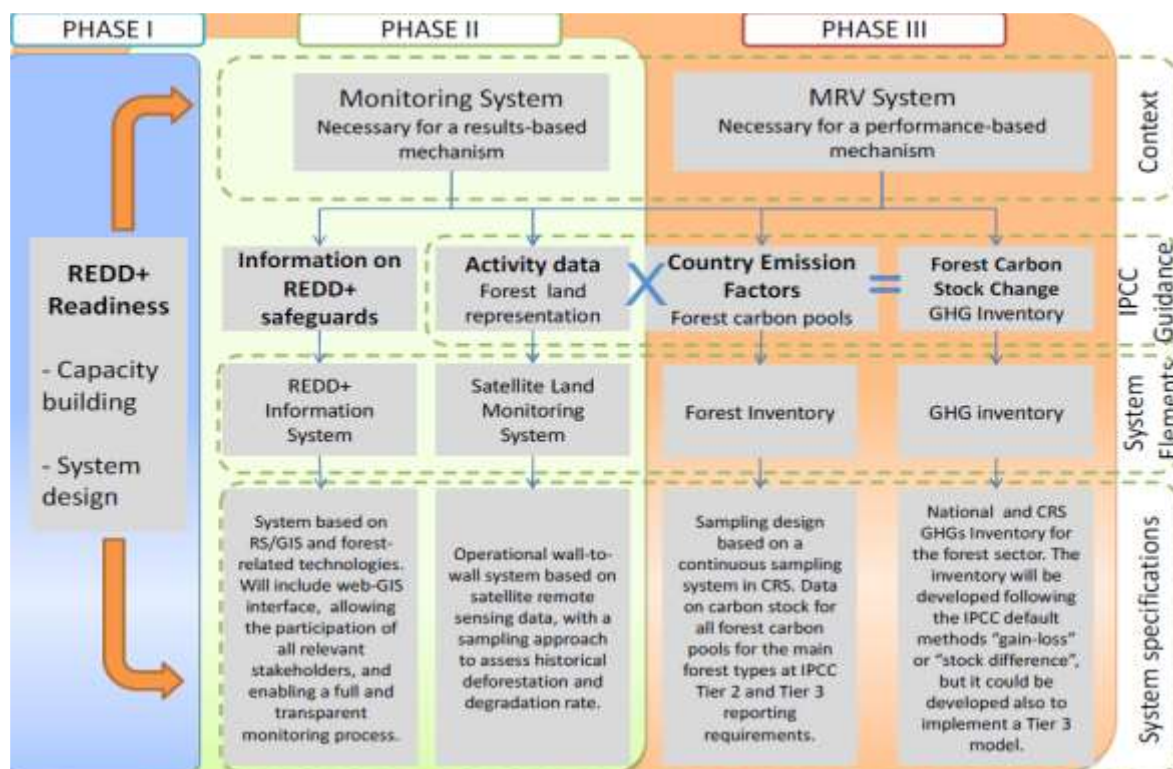
Figure 9: showing integrated approach to building both Monitoring & MRV systems including FREL in Nigeria

During the development of the FREL document, all processes followed and methodologies used for the estimation of activity data and emission factors were documented in a transparent manner. All maps used for estimating activity data were referenced, and both metadata and spatial datasets are available in a spatial database. Also for the estimation of emission factors, based on forest inventory data, all calculations were done in a transparent manner.

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

♦ How does the establishment of the REL/RL take into account historical data, and if adjusted for national circumstance, what is the rationale and supportive data that demonstrate that proposed adjustments are credible and defendable? ♦ Is sufficient data and documentation provided in a transparent fashion to allow for the reconstruction or independent cross-checking of the REL/RL?

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Nigeria's FREL adopted a classification system that was based on a national land use and cover classification scheme developed in 1995 mapping project in Nigeria (FORMECU, 1998). The classification consisted of 36 land use/land cover classes, but it was deemed necessary to aggregate the classes into a few easily mapped classes that can be distinguished with high confidence on satellite imagery. In consultation with the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA and other relevant stakeholders working in the land-based sector in Nigeria, the 36 classes were aggregated into 12 classes which were further grouped into forest and non-forest classes.

Activity data was mostly obtained from land use change studies using satellite imagery. The initial reference period included data from 2006 to 2016 and annual historical deforestation rates were considered for this period. Nigeria chose this period seeking to follow guidance from the FCPF methodological framework (which suggests a preference for a recent 10-year period) and the GCF scorecard (which suggests a preference for a 10-15-year period). The approach used a land cover change map to stratify reference data points to be collected and the resulting statistics are referred to as stratified area estimators. Reference data was obtained through interpretation of very high spatial and temporal resolution satellite data which was carefully visually interpreted by experts skilled in interpreting remote sensing imagery and with good knowledge of the situation of the ground. The points were further intersected with the ecological zone map to breakdown the activity data by ecozone class. Overall, The development of FREL/FRL in the country will follow a stepwise approach with the intention that FREL/FRL will be further developed and refined over time. It must be noted that FREL/FRL uses the same building blocks or pillars like MRV: the difference stems from the fact that historical data is used for FREL/FRL while MRV uses future data collected. UNFCCC insists that FREL/FRL be consistent with MRV, so that actual performance is assessed during monitoring.

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

Nigeria developed its FREL based on transparent, complete and accurate information, consistent with UNFCCC guidance and the most recent IPCC guidance and guidelines, and allowing for technical assessment of the data sets, approaches, methods, models and assumptions used in the construction of the FREL

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Nigeria's submission of its FREL is in the context of results-based payments for the implementation of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The government has followed the guidance provided by the UNFCCC through the decisions taken at the Conference of the Parties (CP), notably the modalities for forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels in Decision 12/CP.17 and the guidelines for submission of information on reference levels in the Annex of Decision 12/CP.17.

This submission does not prejudge or modify any of Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) pursuant to the Bali Action Plan. The Government adopted a step-wise approach to its national FREL development as stated in Decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 10. As such, the current FRL reflects the best available information at the time of submission. The scope and methodologies applied can be modified whenever improved data becomes available. The historical period considered, and/or the construction approach could also be revised.

Nigeria FREL provides the baseline to measure REDD+ performance based on the estimates of changes in forest area and carbon content over time and the corresponding emissions to and uptake from the atmosphere. The FREL has established transparently established

emissions baselines taking into account historical data, and can be adjusted for national circumstances as appropriate. Technical experts will verify the accuracy of the FREL results, the consistency in the methodologies, definitions, comprehensiveness as well as the consistency in the information provided in the technical annex with the UNFCCC guidelines. In line with this decision, Nigeria will adopt a two-tier verification process. There will be internal verification at the sub-national and national levels as well as external verification by an independent third-party organization.

As Nigeria advances in implementing REDD+, the country will need to consider:

– Inclusion of below ground biomass in the computation: This was left out in the FREL/REL computation because of the cost implication as it involves more rigorous work;
– Inclusion of forest degradation in the computation of FREL/REL: Deforestation is the main emission activity addressed in the present FREL. Further improvement will require the inclusion of forest degradation, which also leads to a lot of emissions through timber harvesting, fuelwood harvesting, and forest fires;
– Further improvement in the confidence level: As regards emission factors (EF) determination, the inventory design attempted to sample all major ecological zones from coastal mangroves and Fresh Water Swamps to Sudan and Sahel savanna ecosystems; and EFs have been computed per major ecological zones. However, from the confidence intervals obtained, the level of uncertainty is still high for some ecological zones and it will be important (subject to availability of funds), that additional and intensive inventories be undertaken to improve on the precision and accuracy of the estimates. The estimates used in the present FREL can serve in the optimization of a future inventory sampling design;
– Use of better data set for computation: Regarding the activity data (AD), work was undertaken to produce land use/land cover maps, change detection analysis and accuracy assessment. However, considering the large size of the country, and problems with "pixel-based" change analysis, the use of Hansen GFC data was recommended for AD estimation. Further improvements could be made in the capacity and resources needed to complete this type of analysis; and
– Adoption of relevant definition of forest: Nigeria's forest definition must be further delineated to distinguish different classes of forests, which relate to different carbon stocks.

2.4 Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards

2.4.1 Subcomponent 4a: National Forest Monitoring System
Criteria 29: Documentation of monitoring approach

Nigeria has developed clear rationale to support the selection of the used or proposed methodology (combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches, systems resolution, coverage, accuracy, inclusions of carbon pools and gases) and improvement over time.

Significant progress	Progressing well, further	Further development	Not yet demonstrating

achieved	progress required	required	progress

The Technical Committee with support from partners like UNEP and FAO have technically reviewed the system to be consistent with national and international existing and emerging guidance. The monitoring system applied a stepwise approach, both spatially and temporally to enable an evolutionary process towards a full, nationwide MRV system as well as a safeguard information system. The monitoring system as designed for both MRV and SIS is two-way, since the federal level is providing the format needed at state level for the sake of transparency and consistency.

Nigeria has finalised the development its National Forest Monitoring System. The main purpose being to generate information that allows comparison of changes in forest area and carbon content (and associated greenhouse (GHG) emissions) relative to the baseline estimates used for the REL/RL. The process will enable a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system to strengthen forest governance and consider counter measures to deforestation and forest degradation.

Relevant stakeholders were also brought together to assess workflow and different NFMS products & steps in order to align appropriate institutional arrangements with respect to data needs, collation and collection method and to draw technical expertise to chart the way forward for a robust and functional NFMS for Nigeria. At the time of this Assessment the NFMS development has been completed, with a Standard Operating Procedure to guide the process as the country advances in REDD implementation.
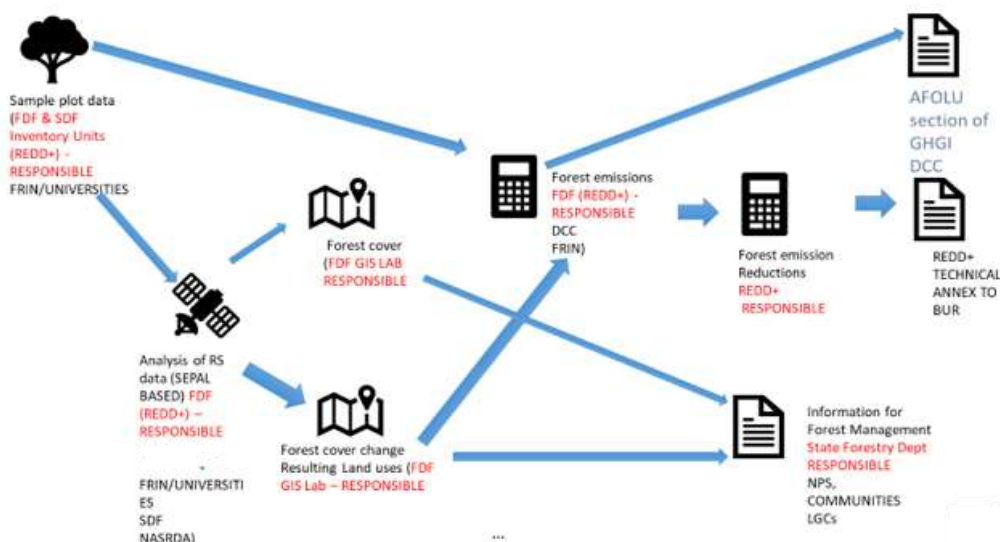

Fig. 10 An Outlook of the Nigeria NFMS including Institutional mandates

Criteria 30: Demonstration of early system implementation

Nigeria has made remarkable progress at the time of this Assessment in finalizing the NFMS. The contents of the document   demonstrate capability to monitor the specific REDD+ activities prioritized in the country's REDD+ strategy.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

The NFMS will include satellite land monitoring systems (SLMS) and other data collection providing information for activity data (AD); and National Forest Inventories (NFI) or other data collection providing information on emission factors (EF). The system will enable Nigeria to conceptualize, design and implement a national SLMS for forestry and Land Use and Land Use Change (LULUC) to generate activity data that will help to monitor area changes caused by, in the case of Nigeria based on its FREL, deforestation and reforestation/afforestation activities. Information from the NFMS will form the basis for data input into national greenhouse gas inventories, Forest Reference (Emission) Level (FREL/FRL) construction, REDD+ results, NDC reporting, as well as Safeguards monitoring and reporting. support domestic efforts to improve forest management and forest conservation.

Meanwhile, ongoing National Forest Inventories (NFIs) involve the collection of bio-physical data that will generate information on forests, forest management, carbon stock and biodiversity density as baselines for the NFMS. The scope of the forest inventories covers socio-economic information to understand the anthropogenic impact on forests and their role in sustainable livelihoods. This way the NFMS already provides a viable framework to investigate the social and environmental impacts of REDD+ activities within which to operationalise the SIS. The scope and scale of Nigeria's NFMS will enable the country to mitigate reversals and displacements, which can occur after the reduction of emissions. The NFMS will provide the framework for continuous monitoring of environmental results in different landscapes and/or jurisdictions, and assist the country to identify the implementation of incentives to engender sustainable forest management.

Criteria 31: Institutional arrangements and capacities

Nigeria has developed clear institutional arrangements to implement the REDD+ programme. The institutions and their specific roles are already described in the Strategy, after robust iterations, assessments, and stakeholder recommendations.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

The ESMF also specified the appropriate roles and responsibilities of the implementing agencies and outlined the necessary reporting procedures for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns in REDD+ implementation. The country has also put in place SESA with the strategic objective of integrating social and environmental concerns into the policy-making process of REDD+. The country will need to make further progress to harmoinse institutional arrangements to avoid duplication, improve cooirdination for data collection, management and dissemination, and evolving a legislative arrangement to streamline the functions of the various institutions managing REDD+ at both national and

sub-national levels to collectively report through one source for ease of monitoring REDD+ performance.

2.4.2 Subcomponent: 4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

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

Nigeria's work on Safeguards and SIS together with SESA considered relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental safeguard issues of REDD+.

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Based on the UNFCCC requirement, Nigeria has identified REDD+ Safeguards and developed a SIS to provide transparent and consistent information that will accessible by all relevant stakeholders and updated on a regular basis; be flexible to allow for improvements over time, provide information on how Safeguards are being addressed and respected, be country-driven and implemented at the national level, and build upon existing systems, as appropriate. To support effective Safeguards implementation, Nigeria has identified and mapped both carbon and non-carbon benefits from REDD+ implementation. The country has therefore put in place a system to track Safeguards compliance as REDD+ progresses, against established baselines. The information will contain up-to-date data on social and environmental risks mitigation and increased benefits from implementing REDD+, including how policies and measures support REDD+ activities and address the Cancun Safeguards. To evolve a robust system, Nigeria will link REDD+ Safeguards database to its National Forest Monitoring System (currently being developed) and its overall framework for Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV). The country believes that this will engender transparency and ease of access to Safeguards information from REDD+ activities at all levels in the country.

Criteria 33: Monitoring, reporting and information sharing

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Nigeria's REDD+ architecture has considered a robust Monitoring System to identified social and environmental safeguard issues, and flexible enough to accommodate new ones as they emerge in the course of REDD+ implementation. Information from the database will support the development and management of a website that will contain information on Safeguards implementation under REDD+, and will also deliver data on REDD+ activities, such as project level information in Nigeria. The SIS REDD+ web-platform will connect with other sector instruments, particularly forestry and agriculture that have Safeguards elements relevant to REDD+. The administrator of all data/information on Safeguards implementation shall be a desk officer from the National REDD+ Secretariat (under Federal Department of Forestry and the State REDD+ Secretariats), based on the institutional arrangement for REDD+ implementation in Nigeria.

Criteria 34: Institutional arrangements and capacities

Significant progress achieved	Progressing well, further progress required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress

Nigeria has designed its REDD+ Programme to demonstrate strong country ownership and shared/common decision-making to ensure successful implementation. The Country has established a well-defined management and coordination arrangement at national and sub-national levels in line with the guidelines of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, for the implementation of its REDD+ programme. Nigeria's institutional arrangements (or the governance structure) for implementing this strategy follows a critical assessment of existing situations, outlines the policy and legal frameworks, social, gender and environmental safeguards including the feedback and grievance redress mechanism to enhance the benefits from REDD+. The country's REDD+ implementation structure elaborates the management and main technical and analytical roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, defines the financing mechanism and the communication strategy for the successful implementation of REDD+ in Nigeria. The mandates to perform tasks related to non-carbon aspects and safeguards are clearly defined with associated budgets, which the country has documented as an Investment Plan particularly for CRS, and will replicate as REDD+ implementation advances.

3.0   LESSONS LEARNED

No doubt, a lot of lessons can be learned from the experience of the REDD+ programme in Nigeria over the years. Some of these lessons are:

1. The civil society organizations (CSOs) are useful mechanisms for enhancing consultation, participation and information sharing on REDD+, particularly at state and local levels. Therefore, the need to actively engage the CSOs in the REDD+ programme;

2. Active engagement of Civil Society Organizations are needed for effective communication with the various stakeholders;

3. Women's participation in REDD+ in general is very important, and particularly in the decision-making, both at national and state levels. There is a need to strengthen and better involve women CSOs, where available, and to encourage the establishment of women CSOs in states that do not have active CSOs;

4. The REDD+ implementation framework needs to define the roles of, and provide incentives for the related institutions and other national REDD+ partners to participate effectively in the REDD+ program and support its implementation framework. It should also ensure building trust of local communities on the REDD+ program to gain their support to the REDD+ implementation phase. Resources mobilization for REDD+ also needs to strengthened based on the work planned under the additional grant agreement;

5. The REDD+ issues need to be considered in the updating of forest laws and policies at Federal and State levels as defined in the outcomes of the readiness programs, such as benefit-sharing, carbon rights, and FGRM;

6. The need to mainstream the REDD+ programme into sectoral policies and laws;

7. The political will is needed to enforce law against illegal logging; and

8. The need to give critical attention to the issue of benefit sharing and operationalize the concept of feedback and grievance redress mechanism.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS:

Moving forward, all the observed gaps should be attended to. The technical and institutional capacities of the REDD+ Working Groups on Consultation, Participation and Sensitization need to be further strengthened, particularly at the state levels, in areas such as communication skills. Technical skills in areas related to REDD+ implementation such as FREL/FRL, NFMS, ESMF, FGRM, benefit-sharing as well as skills for the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy, including emission reduction programs.

The ongoing Forest Monitoring exercise should be intensified and the data being collected should be fed into the database of the national vegetation map for necessary update on national forest inventory statistics.

In conclusion, Nigeria has made considerable progress in the REDD+ programme and is ready for the implementation/investment phase that will user result based Carbon credit payments.

REFERENCES:

1. A Guidance to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework (June, 2013).

2. Joint FCPF – UN – REDD Programme Guidance Note for REDD+ Countries: Establishing and Strengthening Grievance Mechanisms Version no. 3 (January 2014).

3. UN – REDD, Guidance on stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness with a Focus on the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest – Dependent Communities. (April 20, 2012) (Revision of March 25th Version).

4. FAO /PRO FOR (2011): Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance.

5. Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) NIE Kenya: Integrated Programme to Build Resilience to Climate Change & Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable Communities in Kenya.

6. National Strategy for Nigeria's REDD+ Programme (August, 2019).

7. Guidance Note for Borrowers: Environmental & Social Framework for IPF Operations (ESS 1 – ESS 10) June, 2018

8. The World Bank Environmental and Social Framework.

9. Republic of Cameroon: Self – Assessment of the REDD+ Readiness Phase by Stakeholders (25/02/2019).

10. Key Decisions Relevant for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+) UNFCCC/Secretariat, (February, 2016).

11. UN – REDD, Technical Considerations for Forest Reference Emission Level Construction for REDD+ under the UNFCCC (2015).

12. Forest Reference Emission Levels (FRELs) for the Federal Republic of Nigeria: A Jurisdictional Approach Focused on Cross River State (May, 2018).

13. REDD+ Readiness Package (R – Package) and Multi-stakeholder Self-Assessment of REDD+ Readiness in Nepal (July, 2016).

14. UN – REDD, National REDD+ Framework Strategy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (December, 2016).

15. COSTA RICA, REDD+ Readiness Package (12 September 2015).

16. Carbon Fund, Methodological Framework (June 22, 2016).

17. UN – REDD, National Programme Final Report Nigeria, UN – REDD Programme (2017).

18. The World Bank, Report No: 93823 – NG, Readiness Preparation Proposal Assessment Note on A Proposed Grant in the Amount US 3.80 Million to the Federal Republic of Nigeria for REDD+ Readiness Preparation Support, (February 4, 2015).

19. REDD+ Social Safeguards and Standards Review - : Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities (FCMC) Program.

20. Mechanisms for Benefit Sharing: Nigeria Case Study for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

21. Participatory Self-Assessment and Synthesis of Ghana's REDD+ Readiness Process (R-Package) July 2016 Final Report.

22. National Forest Policy (2020).

APPENDICES

Appendix I: SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REDD+ STATES

S/No	REDD+ State	Date of commencement of REDD+	REDD+ Activities carried in the State so far.	List of REDD+ Pilot Sites	Forest-dependent Communities around the Pilot Sites
1.	Cross River State	2010	(i) Awareness creation and capacity development; (ii) Community-based activities: (a) Afi-Mbe Pilot Site: Culvert construction in Buanchor; Garri processing factory in Olum and in Bamba; (b) Mangrove Pilot Site: Bush Mango seedlings in Eserembo; Oil Mills at EsukMba and Snail Farming and Seedlings provision in Creek Town	(i) Afi River FR / Mbe Mountain in Boki LGA ; (ii) Ukpon/ Ekuri/IkoEsai in ; (iii) Mangrove Forest Reserve in Calabar LGA	**(i) Afi-Mbe**: Buanchor, Olum, Bamba; **(ii) Ekuri:** Old Ekuri, New Ekuri and Edondon; (iii) **Mangroves:** Esukmba, Eserebom and Creek town.
2..	Ondo State	2015	(a) Stakeholders meeting; (b) National REDD+ Scoping Mission; (c) Preliminary scoping studies of forest sites for a REDD+ Pilot Site in 2014; (d) Multi-stakeholder's meetings with forest-dependent communities, NGOs, CSOs. (e) Organization of one-week training on Forest Carbon inventory held in Akure in December 2017; (f) Capacity building workshops on forest governance, overview of REDD+, grievance redress mechanism for forest dependent communities and project staff were held at community levels in the State; (g) Collaboration with Centre for Climate Change for Development to train eight Communities and Twelve Community Based-Organizations (CBOs) on alternative livelihood options in 2018/2019 (over 200 members from the local communities attended the programme); (h) Provision of cooking gas and stoves to households to discourage them from fetching firewood from the forest; (i) Participated in the conduct of SESA, ESMF for Nigeria REDD+	(i) Akure Forest Reserve Enclave; (ii) Osse River Park Forest Reserve;	**(i) Akure Forest Reserve:** Obada, Sopoto, Kolawole, Aponmu, Ownna, Sepete and Oladapo Communities **(ii) Osse River Park Forest Reserve:** Ago Agbanimu, Ago Daaji, Elegbeka, Ago Ajayi, Lekere, Ido-Ani, Awani, Omi Alafa and Gbogburu Communities

			Readiness, FREL, FGRM and capacity building in GIS/Remote Sensing.		
3.	Nasarawa State	2017	(a) Sensitization; (b) Focused Group discussion; (c) media drama on deforestation and bush burning. (d) Steering Committee and Technical Committee established.		Massenge, Andoho, Marhai, Turkpa, Atabla, Dere, Serene and Ayiwawa
4.	Ogun State	28th Oct 2019	(a) Practical Field Training on Forest Inventory techniques and Data Collection; (b) Community engagement (i.e. Sensitisation/awareness/ enlightenment at the pilot site Communities); Working Committee yet to be put in place.	(i) Omo J4 Forest Reserve; (ii) Olokemeji Forest Reserve; (iii) Ilaro Forest Reserve	**(i) Omo J4 Forest Reserve:** Etemi and J4 Communities in Ogun East Senatorial District; **(ii) Olokemeji Forest Reserve:** Alape and Olokemeji Communities in Ogun Central Senatorial District; **(iii) Ilaro Forest Reserve:** Ipake and Igbogun Communities in Ogun West Senatorial District.
5.	Plateau State	28th October 2019	(a) Engagement with Forest Communities; (b) Engagement with Traditional Councils of the Forest Communities; (c) Engagement with Forest related NGOs; (d) Airing of Public Enlightenment Programs on Radio; (e) Steering Committee and Technical Committee established; (f) Meetings with Technical Committee; (g) Building Synergy with relevant stakeholders (MDAs, Academia, National Remote Sensing and PLAGIS). (h) Gender Mainstreaming.	(i) Laminga Forest Reserve; (ii) Pandam Game Reserve	**(i) Laminga Forest Reserve:** Laminga community; **(ii) Pandam Game Reserve:** Ampia, Nadang, Goeniang, Goetangpil, Nagu, Pandam, Kayarda, Aningo, Namu, GidanBawa.
6.	Edo State	8th Sep. 2020	(a) Practical Field Training on National Forest Inventory Techniques and Data collection; (b) Stakeholders engagement and sensitization of selected communities; (c) Collaboration with Federal Ministry of Environment and NGOs (d) Organization of a two-week	i) Okomu Forest Reserve; (ii) Sokpoba Forest Reserve; (iii) Urhonigbe Forest Reserve; and (iv) Ehor Forest Reserve.	**i) Okomu** Forest Reserve: Udo, Igueze, Utesi, and AT&P **(ii) Sakpoba Forest Reserve:** Ugo, Avbiugo, Sakponba-abeh

			National Forest Carbon Inventory (NFCI); (e) Identification of Pilot Sites; (f) Capacity building; and (g) Establishment of Technical Committee headed by the Project Coordinator.		**(iii) Urhonigbe Forest Reserve:** Uhi, Ugiehudu, Iriwe, Inner- Erua, Evbowe and Evbowan (iv) Ehor Forest Reserve: Uhi, Ugiehudu, Iriwe, Inner-Erua, Evbowe and Evbowan.
7.	Kaduna State	November 2020	(a) Stakeholders engagement; (b) Establishment of three Working Committees.	(i) Galma Forest Reserve; (ii) Kamuku National Park; (iii) Jaja Forest Reserve.	**(i) Galma Forest Reserve:** Kudaru, Banki, Damau, Gjagaja and Bugau; (ii) **Kamuku National Park: Site:** Gwaska, Doka, Mado, Bugai, Aworo and Kakangi; (iii) **Jaja Forest Reserve:** Gwanje, Madan Gabas, UngwanYaro, Kusom and UngwanYuli

Appendix II: CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON REDD + R-PACKAGE IN CROSS RIVER STATE

S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION	PHONE NO
1.	Mrs. Bridget Nkwor	DDF	08036678782
2.	Mr. Agala Ebiaga	Forest officer 1	08028291192
3.	Miss. Blessing Enagu	Information Officer	07032544991
4.	Mr. Ntun Nkwam	Senior Programme Analyst	07032469473
5.	Mr. Patrick Bassey	REDD+ Coordinator	08034742838
6.	Mr. Akomaye Ashiku	PFS 1	08067083651
7.	Mr. Felix Ita Ekpenyong	Per Sec Min. Forestry & Climate Change	08037127714
8.	Mrs. Gloria Offiong	Sec to PS (MFCC)	07031536202
9.	Mr. Odigha Odigha	NGOCE (NGO coalition for Environment)	08037237454
10.	Mr. Williams O. Ifere	Ministry of Agriculture & Natural Resources	08038652416

| 11. | Chief Tony Undiandoye | Chairman/CEO Forestry Commission | 08023451378 |
| 12. | Mr. Akwaji Timothy Ogbang | Perm Sec/Chairman Technical Committee of REDD+ | 08023573350 |

Appendix III: Consultation with Indigenes of New Ekuri Vallage

S/NO	Name	Designation	Telephone
1.	Chief Abel Egbe	Village Head	07070800111
2.	Chief John O. Egeh	Deputy Village Head	
3.	Mrs. Lawrencia O. Agbor	Women Leader (Ekuri Village)	08147403893
4.	Mr. Daniel Asuquo	Youth Vice President	0913103237
5.	Mr. Leo Akamo Enwa	Youth Member	07062935015
6.	Mr. Ogar D. Abel	Member	07037606873
7.	Mr. Agbor Innocent Owor	Village General Secretary	08067045743
8.	Mr. Kerien Enwa Akamo	Member	08135855766
9.	Mr. Moses Ogar Oyi	Member	
10.	Mr. Esira Vincent Akang	Member	
11.	Mr. James Ayimor Ogar	Teacher	08133723535

Appendix IV: Launching of the Nigeria's REDD+ Strategy

The Federal Government on Monday, July 26, 2021 called on developed countries through their high commissions and embassies to support Nigeria in the implementation of its environmental protection programmes. Minister of Environment, Dr Mohammad Abubakar, made the call at the inauguration of Nigeria's National Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, (REDD+) strategy document, in Abuja.

Minister of Environment, Dr Mohammad Abubakar (right), with the National Coordinator, Nigeria REDD+ Programme, Dr Moses Ama, during the launch of Nigeria's REDD+ Strategy, in Abuja