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REDD + strategies in the management of forest resources

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**Colonel Alassane NGOM,
International Consultant**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

AFOLU: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use

CBR: Community Based Program

CCNUCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

CILSS: Permanent Inter-State Committee against Drought in the Sahel

COP: Conference of Parties to the Convention

ECREE: ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

FAO: United Nations Food and Agriculture

MDTF: Multi Donor Fund for Special Assignment

FCPF: Partnership Facility Forest Carbon

GEF: Global Environment Fund

GCCA: Global Climate Change Alliance

GHG: Greenhouse Gases

REDD: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation

IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

CDM: Clean Development Mechanism

MRV: Measuring, Reporting and Verification

MDG: Millennium Development Goal

UNEP: United Nations Environment Program

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

PROGEDE2: Traditional Energy Management Project and Substitution

REDD+: Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

SGP: Small Grant Program

LULUCF: Land Use, Assignment Change of Land and Forestry

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INTRODUCTION:

According to FAO¹, forests are the basis of subsistence of over one billion people living in extreme poverty around the world, and help provide salaried jobs to over 100 million people. They contain more than 80 percent of terrestrial biodiversity of the planet and help protect watersheds, essential to clean water supply for the majority of humanity. They give shelter to at least 1.3 billion people, or 18 percent of the world population.

Forest is one of the main pillars for agriculture. Specifically, millions of people depend for food and woodfuel to improve the nutritional quality and diversity of their diet. This dependence is felt especially during seasonal food shortages, extreme weather events and in areas under conflict.

Forests are also the largest terrestrial biodiversity lands in the world. They also play a vital role in mitigating global climate change and contribute to the conservation of soil and water in many fragile ecosystems.

West African forests and woodlands are covering a total area of about 72.1 million hectares (14% of the land area in West Africa) of which 4.2 million hectares are primary forest, 66.2 million are secondary forest, and 1.7 million hectares are forest plantations in addition to numerous agro-forest parks. Protected areas cover 27.7 million hectares and offer a wide range of goods and services, including timber and non-timber forest products necessary to satisfy domestic and commercial needs.

However, this potential continues to decline at an alarming rate of 19% over ten years, a loss of about 870,000 hectares per year between 2000 and 2010 (FAO). The key factors for deforestation in the region range from uncontrolled forest exploitations, bush fires, extensive livestock, land issues and other political, legal, institutional, technical and economic constraints.

On all these issues, REDD+ can provide more or less effective solutions according to national, local and regional realities.

1. REDD+: UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT :

1.1. The REDD + concept and its evolution:

¹ Situation des forêts du monde ; FAO, 2014, pxii - xiii

Among the Rio environmental Conventions (1992), the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) is the instrument of the international community to establish a clean development. Through the Kyoto Protocol, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as well as emissions trading and joint implementation have been designed to organize the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or increase carbon stock biomass and soils based on market mechanisms.

Under the CDM, the Kyoto Protocol is only considering afforestation and reforestation as modality of the forest care.

The CDM has little benefited to the forest sector, especially in Africa, mainly due to non-permanence of forest carbon mentioned by several authors, due to the early loss of growth chart in volume, bushfires , overgrazing, illegal exploitation, successive rainfall deficits, land tenure insecurity, etc..

But overall, the international community under the pressure of developing countries has realized from 2005 that deforestation, constituting the third cause of greenhouse gases emission, needs to be taken care of in the context of climate change against fight. The European Union has expressed its aim to divide by 2 the deforestation rate by 2020, and stabilization of forest cover by 2030. Position taken by developed countries. Overall, the challenge was to cover all countries to avoid deforestation shift (IPCC, 2007). REDD+ approach was therefore quickly adopted as perspectives in the Kyoto Protocol, which was to end in 2012.

1.2. Some historical landmarks are to be remembered:

- **2005 the concept of "RED" (Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation)** was first discussed at the 11th session of the Convention Conference of Parties (COP) at the request of Costa Rica and Papua New Guinea under the document "Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action»;
- **During COP13 in Bali in 2007**, a first decision on REDD + has been adopted, decision 2 / CP.13: on "Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action." On this occasion, the Bali Action Plan calls for demonstration activities on REDD and evaluation of deforestation factors. This invitation has led to the creation of a very large number of programs and projects,

including the Partnership Fund for Forest Carbon (FCPF) of the World Bank, the UN-REDD Program and small grants launched by the Norwegian International for Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI);

- In 2009, at CoP 15 in Copenhagen, decision 4 / CP.15: further structures REDD +, including defining the measurement terms, reporting and verification (MRV) of carbon forest (monitoring system). The concept now covers activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by incorporating the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries ". Meaning, the conservation and forests management and all other carbon sink forest areas are added on REDD. In addition, countries are encouraged to develop national strategies, develop national capacities, establish baselines and strengthen the participatory approach to reach local communities;
- At the CoP 16 Cancun, decision 1 / CP.16 *was adopted and in its section C it is stated that "The policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, combined with the role of conservation and sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries"* must be accompanied by guarantees so that the implementation of REDD + at the national level does not produce adverse effects on the environment and / or on the local population ;
- 2011 Decision 1 / CP.17 of the COP17 in Durban (in particular para 63-73) described the sources of financing for REDD + and invite Parties to submit their views;
- 2012 Decision 1 / CP.18 of the Doha COP18 (particularly para 25-50) a (i) initiate a work program on Funding Sources of REDD + (payments "eResult-based" and payments "no carbon" (ii) invite Parties to submit their views on the subject;
- In December 2013, the CoP 19 in Warsaw produces about seven key decisions on REDD +;
 - a work program on results-based financing;
 - The coordination of the support of donors for implementation;
 - The modalities for national forest monitoring systems (SNSF)
 - Information System on guarantees (GIS or safeguard REDD +);

- The technical evaluation of emission baselines or reference forests (NRF);
- The procedures for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) consistent with the guidelines established at COP 15;
- The information on the factors and causes of deforestation and forest degradation noting that indigenous peoples are not deforestation agents;
- At COP 20 in December 2014, the decision 8 / CP.20 invites the Council of the *Green Climate Fund* to support relevant decisions REDD +.

In summary, to enhance the woody biomass capital from avoided deforestation, we went from:

- **RED: reducing emissions from deforestation:** which is more "easily" manageable since it is possible to observe by satellite imagery, between two specified dates, the evolution of forest land surfaces from CDM forest definition;
- **REDD: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation** is already more difficult because, beyond the rate of deforestation, there is a need to identify degradation "of forest land" and to evaluate it. Which involves a combination of techniques that combine the evaluations from satellite imagery, a stratification of ecosystems and field inventories;
- **REDD+: reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation** in developing countries, *and the role of conservation and sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries*» It is the italicized part that justifies the + added to REDD). In relation to REDD, REDD + introduced a device that takes into account the preservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, as defined by the forest of the CDM. The technical tools set for REDD can also understand the evolution of the biomass at the REDD +. The Bali plan just introduced the ability to create specific tools to develop or strengthen the conservation, sustainable or increasing forest carbon stock management. These tools can theoretically be disconnected from the only assessment of carbon budgets, for example, it can be assumed that the assessment of the carbon footprint of a wooded basin on two dates should not generate significant differences in terms of carbon, and therefore no potential financial value compared with the carbon alone.

So therefore, for a given territory reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation can be achieved by: (i) deferred grazing; (ii) the substitution of wood fuels with

cleaner energy sources (sun, electricity, biogas, etc.); (iii) energy conservation (improved stoves, Casamance kiln, etc.), (iv) better management forest stands, participatory designing, etc.

In addition, in order to accelerate the process of capitalization of the timber potential, one can well carry out woodland enhancements, open or closed (agroforestry systems.) In other words, even in the Sudano-Saharan zone, REDD + can be initiated provided that, in the end we realize the standards of the forest definition of the host country².

Ultimately, we can say that the REDD + initiative reflects a territorial, participatory, integrated and inclusive approach contributing to local development.

2. DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS INITIATIVES:

2.1. The Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (FCPF) of the World Bank :

2.1.1. Presentation of the FCPF:

The FCPF Forest Carbon (FCPF English) was launched from the Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC in Bali. Operational since June 2008, the FCPF is a global partnership dedicated to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of carbon forest stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon forestry stocks (REDD +). The FCPF assists tropical and subtropical forest countries to develop systems and policies for REDD + and provides payments based on emission reduction results. The FCPF complements the UNFCCC negotiations on REDD + by demonstrating the implementation of REDD + at the country level. During its first two years of operation, the FCPF has established a framework and preparation procedures for REDD + to help countries get ready for future systems of financial incentives. This framework allows each participating country to better define its readiness for REDD +, particularly by developing reference scenarios, adopting a REDD + strategy, defining monitoring systems and setting up national management devices of REDD +, according to inclusive methods of all key national stakeholders.

The governing structure of FCPF includes a participant committee of 28 members, elected by REDD participating countries and financial contributors, 6 observers named by local people reliant on the forests and the other forest populations, NGOs and international organizations,

² Définition « forêt » : 0,05 ha ≤ Surface minimale ≤ 1 ha ; 10% ≤ Couverture arborée ≤ 30 % ; 2m ≤ Hauteur à maturité ≤ 5 m.

and finally the World Bank. The World Bank is the administrator of the preparation Fund and the Carbon Fund, provides secretarial services and is the implementing partner of the FCPF that provides technical support to REDD participating country and due diligence done on issues such as fiduciary policies and environmental and social safety measures. It is expected that other entities join the World Bank as implementing partners of the FCPF.

The four main objectives of the FCPF are:

- help REDD + eligible countries in their efforts to achieve emission reductions (ER) from deforestation and / or forest degradation by providing financial and technical assistance in building their capacity to benefit future systems of positive incentives for REDD + to be developed ;
- to pilot a performance-based payment system for Emission Reductions generated from REDD + activities in order to follow equitable sharing and promoting future large scale positive incentives for REDD +;
- with the approach REDD +, to test ways to maintain or improve the livelihoods of local communities and to conserve biodiversity; and
- Disseminate the knowledge gained in the development of the Facility and the implementation of preparedness plans and emissions reduction programs.

Country support is done through two funding mechanisms:

- (i) the preparation mechanism (fund) that support 37 countries to prepare for the future system of large-scale positive incentives for REDD + including: (i) preparing a REDD strategy and / or complete the existing strategies or forestry or environmental policies including the response to questions of ownership and sharing mechanisms of carbon revenue, the establishment of baseline emissions from deforestation or forest degradation, based on recent trends in emissions, setting up a national system of measurement, reporting and verification of emissions and emission reduction to calculate the emission reductions compared to reference Scenario. Each participating country of the FCPF supports its own deforestation and forest degradation challenges with its own approach so to make its own contribution to the partnership. In doing so, FCPF maximizes the learning value by testing several approaches.

- (ii) The Carbon Fund (or Carbon finance mechanism) is a modality of financing, on a voluntary basis, some countries (approximately five selected countries) who have participated satisfactorily in the REDD + preparation through payments, to encourage policies and measures taken in the context of REDD +. The Carbon Fund will remunerate the selected countries and on the basis of certified emission reduction contracts in relation to the reference scenario. The payments of the Carbon Fund are expected to motivate beneficiaries and countries stakeholders (including forest dependent peoples, private sector etc.) in each country to ensure long-term funding for forest conservation and program management. This should help reduce the negative impact of the loss and depletion of forests on global climate. To be successful, the FCPF tries to drive incentive payments where we need it. In some cases, forest dependent peoples, private sector ... participate in emission reduction programs included in the Carbon Fund portfolio and receives revenue from the sale of emission reductions from REDD. In all cases, governments are central to country's commitment to the reduction of emissions from REDD +. The way the carbon revenues should be shared is a question that each country must deal with as part of its preparatory work for REDD + (especially as part of its implementation of REDD +). Thus, Emissions reduction programs should be implemented on this basis and test the established systems during the preparation phase.

Emission reductions from REDD + can vary. Sometimes it can offer, in addition to the benefits of mitigating climate change, a variety of co-benefits, particularly for local communities and the environment. How the FCPF provides an opportunity for monitoring and enhancement of co-benefits for participants to determine. It is recognized that the FCPF is the first and oldest instrument of climate change mitigation. However, REDD programs should be designed to avoid any damage to the environment and where possible, improve living conditions and the local environment. For example, REDD activities can enhance biological diversity by protecting and restoring natural habitat, and preserve and improve the living conditions of local populations in local communities by securing their customary identity or exploitation right of forests, timber and non-timber forest products.

The Carbon Fund mechanism should test a few approaches considered in the context of REDD +. A variety of approaches should be considered for financing and testing in different countries. For example, policy reform, legal framework for the conservation and management of forests, and land use strategies, payment for environmental services, establishment of parks

and reserves and agricultural intensification among others. But these payments should only apply to countries that have achieved measurable and verifiable emission reductions.

Together, the two mechanisms (Preparation Funds and Carbon Fund) seek to create a "capacitating" environment and gather a body of knowledge and experience that could facilitate larger financial flows for REDD + over the medium term (5-10 years).

A REDD participant country is a developing country located in a subtropical or tropical areas which signed a participation agreement to enter the Preparation Funds. Forty-seven developing countries have been selected to join the FCPF (18 in Africa, 18 in Latin America, and 11 in the Asia-Pacific region). The thirty-six countries were selected to join the FCPF at its inception, signed the Participation Agreement. The other eight countries that have been selected to join the FCPF in December 2013 are currently in the process of signing of the Participation Agreement. The ECOWAS countries participating in the FCPF are: Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo.

2.1.2. The achievements of the FCPF:

The main results achieved by the FCPF are:

In December 2013, the methodological framework of the Carbon Fund was adopted to serve as a global standard to regulate REDD + transactions at scale. This completes the significant progress made by the CFPF in the past two years to implement all the frameworks governing the Facility and guide countries to their REDD + activities. With the assessment of the preparedness framework, the framework of the Monitoring and Evaluation, and the methodological framework for the approved Carbon Fund, the FCPF is now advanced in concrete terms by setting up the pieces that were missing for the success of a results-based carbon Finance. The business processes, templates and, above all, the general terms of emission reductions payment agreements (ERPA, legal foundation for large-scale carbon transactions) have significantly progressed and should be approved this year.

While waiting for countries to, eventually, design and introduce five new first project ideas and eight new ER-PIN Carbon Fund, seven additional ER-PIN respectively from Chile, DRC, Mexico, Ghana, Nepal, the Republic of Congo and Vietnam have been selected in the Carbon Fund pipeline at the end of fiscal year 2014. the FCPF has given priority to customized technical support of countries according to the way they designed and developed their program ideas and an important analytical work forward in supporting technical aspects of REDD + at scale. Specifically, advanced tools have been developed to guide countries in

developing baselines and monitoring systems and forest monitoring, and to assess various elements of costs of REDD +. The significant progress recorded in the Carbon Fund has also had a positive effect on the progress of the Preparation Fund to REDD +. The REDD + program design process, concrete and achievable has helped countries to better focus and prioritize REDD + preparatory activities. Four other countries (Costa Rica, Ghana, Indonesia, and Nepal) have reached the halfway stage of the preparation and annual progress reports from countries indicate that implementation is broadly on track.

In 2014, a record number of thirteen (13) preparation planning reports for REDD+ (R-PP) was approved by the Participants Committee (PC) and thirteen (13) countries have reached the next milestone and signed the grant agreement for preparation. This brings the total number of approved R-PP to 45, exceeding the target of Performance Measurement Framework (PMF) which called on 30 R-PP in 2015. Moreover, the total number of countries implementing REDD + preparation activities was increased to 22, more than double for the year 2013. Eleven (11) new countries that have been selected in the FCPF in 2014 are: Belize, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Togo and Uruguay.

At the end of fiscal year 2014, \$ 191 million was allocated as grant for REDD +, and nearly US \$ 90 million had been made available by signed grants, benefiting at least 81 million dollars in non-FCPF investment under preparation (figure taken from non-exhaustive report country). New contributions in the FCPF have increased. Funds Committed and pledged to the Facility increased by approximately \$ 830 million. This includes an additional financial contribution from Norway by nearly \$ 100 million for the Preparation Funds, which is now at \$ 358 million and the United Kingdom's commitment to 45 million pounds to the Carbon Fund, which is now to \$ 470 million. The continued engagement of the FCPF to social inclusion, multiple efforts to build capacity and awareness on the Common Approach have been taken, including policies and procedures for environmental and social safeguards, sharing information and complaints and accountability mechanisms. More specifically, three regional workshops with stakeholders in South America, Latin America and Francophone Africa were held in fiscal year 2014. In addition, local projects implemented by the IP / CSO capacity building program continue to boost the implementation as evidenced by the release of \$ 510,480 or 45 percent of total committed amounts.

Tableau 1 : Level of grants disbursements from the Preparation Fund of FCPF 2009-2014 (in thousands of US dollars)

Activity	% of Total	Total	FY14	FY13	FY12	FY11	FY10	FY09
Readiness Trust Fund Administration	6%	2,356	397	404	356	366	362	471
FCPF Secretariat	24%	9,256	1,515	1,690	2,056	1,685	1,321	989
REDD Methodology Support	22%	8,651	1,796	1,842	999	1,921	1,266	827
Country Advisory Services	19%	7,304	2,342	1,750	1,073	545	793	801
Country Implementation Support	32%	12,617	3,730	3,213	1,701	1,904	1,660	409
IP and CSO Program	5%	2,107	751	1,089	267			
Total Readiness Fund (including Carbon Fund Shared Costs)		42,292	10,532	9,988	6,452	6,421	5,402	3,497
Less Carbon Fund Shared Costs	-9%	(3,464)	(1,159)	(1,236)	(1,069)			
Total Readiness Fund	100%	38,828	9,373	8,752	5,383	6,421	5,402	3,497

Source: annual Report 2014b of FCPF

Tableau 2 : Level of disbursement of FCPF Preparation Fund for the different countries in 2010-2014

Description	Total	FY14	FY13	FY12	FY11	FY10
AFRICA						
Cameroon		571	379	134	3	55
Democratic Republic of Congo	3,530	1,161	1,381	797	14	177
Ethiopia		858	258	400	100	100
Ghana		2,182	1,270	312	400	200
Kenya				170		170
Liberia		776	289	305	107	75
Mozambique			998		911	87
Republic of Congo	1,294	481	237	381	108	87
Uganda		166	(14)		140	40
AFRICA subtotal	10,545	4,749	2,856	1,567	694	679
LATIN AMERICA & CARRIBEAN						
Colombia			200		66	134

Costa Rica	1,015	479	375	22	139
El Salvador	192	42		98	52
Nicaragua	578	378		77	123
LATIN AMERICA & CARRIBEAN subtotal	1,985	899	550	241	156
EAST ASIA & PACIFIC					
Indonesia	2,998	1,233		1,247	518
Lao PDR		173		123	50
Thailand		200		163	37
Vanuatu		127		106	21
Vietnam			501		501
EAST ASIA & PACIFIC subtotal	3,999	1,734	1,516	576	123
SOUTH ASIA					
Nepal	1,492	792	500	109	91
SOUTH ASIA subtotal	1,492	792	500	109	91
Total Grant Disbursements	18,021	8,173	4,923	2,884	1,082

Source: FCPF 2014 Annual Report

2.2.The UN-REDD Program :

The overall objective of the Program for 2011-2015 is to "promote the development and implementation of national strategies for REDD + to prepare countries for REDD +, including a reform of land use, sustainable management of forests and payments oriented résultats.1 "to achieve this goal, the program provides its partners countries support on five areas of technical work: MRV and monitoring, national REDD + governance, the involvement of stakeholders, multiple benefits, management guided by the principles of transparency, fairness and accountability and sectorial transformation. This support is provided through two modalities that are reinforcing each other: the national programs and supporting national REDD + actions: Global Program Framework 2011-2015 (AAN). The partner countries receive direct and tailored support as part of national programs, targeted support and backing, complemented by regional and global support functions. in accordance with the "Delivering as One", the three participating UN agencies assume full responsibility for the implementation of the Program, in terms of programming and financing, drawing on their expertise and implementing their financial regulations, their rules and procedures. The highest management body of the UN-REDD Program is its Policy Board a multi-party body bringing together representatives of participating UN agencies, donors, partner countries, civil society and indigenous peoples, as well as observers. It sets the political direction and approves financial allocations a participatory inclusive and transparent manner. Monitoring and coordination of

inter-institutional performance are assured by the strategy group and the management group. The secretariat of the UN-REDD Program - an inter-institutional unit under the three agencies - is at the service of the Policy Board, the strategy group and the management group. The secretariat helps ensure that the decisions of the Policy Board are put into practice and helps the overall coordination of the Program by hosting meetings and by ensuring information reaches in a timely and effective manner to all stakeholders of the UN Program REDD. The office of the multi-partner directed trust fund (MDTF) of the UNDP acts as Administrative Agent of the UN-REDD Program Fund.

In June 2014, the total finance for countries totaled \$ 195.7 million. In December 31, 2014, the UN-REDD Program has supported a total of 23 countries in the framework of national programs including Nigeria (the only countries in the ECOWAS). However, the National Ivory Coast program was signed and started in 2014.

It reflects the complexity of the work on guarantees and therefore enhances the need for support and technical guidance in this area.

Besides the national programs, the UN-REDD support countries in a targeted manner to develop their abilities to master, among others, the pillars of Warsaw in developing a REDD + strategy and promoting an exchange of experiences between countries. The results obtained in this work can be summarized as follows:

a) MRV and Monitoring:

The purpose of the UN-REDD activities in this area is *"the countries of the REDD + have the systems and capacity required to develop and implement MRV and monitoring."* Significant progress has been made in this area. Indeed, the development and establishment of NNSW progressed well in 29 countries (including 21 completed, ongoing or start their National Program), accompanied by the UN-REDD. These countries are well endowed with at least one of the three essential pillars of a NNSW (IFN, satellite land monitoring system and GHG inventory) and institutional arrangements required are in various stages of development. Also, partner countries have improved their capacity on various aspects of MRV, the NNSW and NER through specific support, regional and South-South training and exchanges with significant achievements among which:

- free online tools tailored to country needs;
- 18 guidance documents on monitoring of forests and numerous technical reports;

- Training and capacity building: During the single year 2014, more than 3000 people (28 percent women) participated in the various partner countries to more than 100 (or 8000 person-days) workshops capacity building, training sessions and events of national scale, regional and international, covering the various aspects and pillars of the NNSW and reference levels;
- the online platform of forest allometric equations used to estimate the volume, biomass and carbon stocks, has been updated with new features and now has over 9500 equations, covering all the ecological areas all over the world
- A global database on wood density and two subregional databases (South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific) on allometric equations for trees are available. A national database was created (in Tanzania) and ten national lists of tree species erect (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, DRC, Nicaragua, Peru, the Philippines, Tanzania and Zambia);
- A web portal fully operational and up to date, entitled System satellite monitoring of land for REDD + or slms4redd.org, provides supports, tools and training materials on various aspects of the NNSW and MRV, and that a user guide to customize the portal and advice to assess forest area from Landsat data and RapidEye;
- The organization of four South-South regional workshops has contributed to a better understanding of procedures NNSW and a wider sharing of experiences in the field;
- A prototype of regional web portal in the Pacific Islands has been developed for monitoring and forest inventory;
- From the lessons learned of the experience of countries that have defined the NERF and consulted experts, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the staff of the UNFCCC and the UN-REDD Program and the participating designers in the development of NERF, a technical paper entitled "new methods for determining reference emission levels for forest and / or the reference levels for forests for REDD +" was written.

Despite these achievements which are of vital importance, challenges remain and which are:

- The national forest monitoring bodies are still in their beginning and lack resources. In addition, technical skills often vary from country to country. Coordination between the various ministries responsible for forest monitoring and GHG inventory remains problematic in many countries. Frequent changes of government and the high turnover of

government experts, trained staff and focal points may compromise the work and progress in the country;

- The proliferation of tools, methodologies and country support initiatives can lead to conflicting estimations and / or scattered efforts. That is why the program also is careful to help countries improve their coordination between the multiple agencies and initiatives present on their soil to make better use of the data collected through the NNSW for various purposes, which are not limited to carbon estimations in the REDD + context;
- The tendency to develop overly complex, expensive, and therefore unsustainable monitoring systems. The program assists countries to adopt sustainable, economic, adapted to national situations, and offering various opportunities capable of being improved and used in many ways.

The recommendations in this area can be thus summarized:

- Countries should take the opportunity to build more sustainable NNSW which meet their national needs and are consistent with existing agencies or organizations. The decisions on the MRV of Warsaw, which recognizes the need to take national situations into account and adapt to round off the guidance of the UNFCCC;
- The UN-REDD will be more responsive to requests for further support of the countries which plan to present their NERF / NRF or improve their estimates of GHG related to forests for their updated Biennial Report (BUR);
- The exchange of South-South knowledge proves a good vehicle for the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned. The program will aim to continue to enrich and facilitate South-South trade, which make it possible to benefit more quickly and effectively of the experiences of advanced countries.

b) The governance:

The aim of the UN-REDD in this area is "reliable national governance systems and open to all are taken to implement REDD +." The program helps the country establish a REDD + governance reliable, informed and open to all. Awareness and support of progressive and prolonged UN-REDD Program in support of REDD + not only enable countries to combine various technical and institutional aspects, as part of a unified national strategy, but also to register REDD + in national targets for wider development. Six countries have developed national strategies for REDD + (DRC, Ecuador and Paraguay), action plans (Bangladesh and Mongolia) or Phase 2 documents (Viet Nam) under participatory processes. In the three

regions, 16 countries have integrated gender in their preparation process, laying the foundations of national strategies that take into account gender equality. Some of the main results are:

- The DRC is committed to respect five pivotal objectives of REDD + (including tenure security, planning for land use and the inclusion of REDD + guarantees in the mining industry) as part of its economic governance matrix;
- Mongolia considers the REDD + in its strategy for a green development - ensuring that it coincides with its broader development priorities;
- Vietnam and Nigeria have completed their first participatory governance assessment and Indonesia its second. This allowed them to establish multiparty trade areas, which act as advisory bodies in the broader process of REDD +, and also to start implementing conducive reforms to REDD + while defining indicators and feeding approaches and national information systems on guarantees;
- Argentina, Ivory Coast, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Viet Nam have conducted an analysis of the institutional context in order to guide both support for REDD + and its implementation or their own national UN-REDD Program;
- Bhutan, Kenya, Peru and the Philippines have completed their assessment of corruption risks;
- Congo, Honduras, Guatemala and Kenya have completed and validated the analysis of their legal frameworks for REDD +, conducted through participatory and inclusive processes;
- Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ghana and Liberia have conducted studies on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). Cameroon has also set up a space for multistakeholder dialogue on REDD + and FLEGT, relying on a series of workshops and informal meetings at national level to strengthen the links between the processes of REDD + and FLEGT;
- The DRC has implemented a financial structure to manage the funds for REDD + based on the priorities of its national strategy. Cambodia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Ecuador, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam are currently developing national systems for funds management of for REDD +;
- Nepal established the final version of the study entitled "Understanding the factors and causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Nepal; Possible policies and measures

for REDD + "of which it was inspired to drafting its interim report for strategic environmental and social assessment;

- Kenya formed its task force against corruption in REDD + and concretizing the recommendations in its assessment of corruption risks. The task force identified priority measures in the fight against corruption, such as capacity building, advocacy, and consolidation of existing complaints mechanisms and codes of conduct;
- Guatemala, Honduras and Kenya have completed and validated the analysis of the legal framework for REDD +, resulting from participatory processes and open to all. The analysis allowed identifying the gaps and inconsistencies in the legal framework and recommended reforms that such countries are planning to implement in 2015, with the support of the Program.

Difficulties encountered by the program in this field:

All aspects of governance (whether institutional, legal, fiduciary or thematic) feed and direct the content of the strategy or REDD + action plans at national level. The challenge is to help countries align and strategically arrange the different pieces of information on governance, achieved with the support of the UN-REDD Program, with the process of national REDD + strategy.

National experiences of the UN-REDD Program in the development of national strategies / action plans showed that they were likely to be considered as mere documents. Efforts are being made to ensure that the strategy and the action plans are recognized as a process, in order to avoid getting unsatisfactory results in terms of ownership, integration with broader national development goals, coherence between the various aspects of the process of preparation and overall cost-effectiveness. Improve the effectiveness of communication channels and circuit information feedback between the different working groups of the UN-REDD Program that contribute to the development of national / action plans strategies is one way to ensure optimal support to countries partners in the field.

Lessons learned:

- If the quality of the national strategy document REDD + is fundamental, the development process itself is equally critical and may be an opportunity to ensure political support from the highest level and a broader base. Where possible and appropriate (potential of REDD +, for ex.), National strategies / action plans for REDD + should be integrated with

national development goals and documents, reinforcing the case for REDD + in terms of credibility and visibility;

- The development process of national REDD strategy is also an opportunity to maintain a permanent multi-stakeholder dialogue and "anchored in reality" and, as required, to ensure better cross-sectorial exchanges. This can help to gradually build consensus and ensure that REDD + is seen as an opportunity and not a threat. The development of national / action plans strategies is an iterative process which would be better if it takes a pragmatic and gradual approach, both in terms of the scale and the scope, while providing permanent improvements in subsequent cycles.

Recommendations:

The priority areas of assistance, substantiated repeatedly by countries in different regions, are the four elements of implementation of REDD + under decision 1 / CP.16 of the UNFCCC, and the funding of REDD + and collaboration with the private sector, particularly with regard to supply commodity chains. It appears decisive for building confidence in REDD + in preparation for 2020, to help countries move forward step by step within the UNFCCC process (including design and implementation of national strategies / action plans), so that activities results-oriented are endorsed.

c) involvement of stakeholders:

The goal of the UN-REDD program in this area is that "indigenous peoples, local communities, civil society organizations and other stakeholders participate fully in REDD+ decisions, as well as in the formulation and implementation of strategies at national and international levels".

progress made:

The investments made to promote the participation of stakeholders have consistently increased since January 2012. This has resulted in more direct technical and financial support to countries. The program thus offers tangible results in terms of stakeholder participation. At Community level, this translates into a better understanding of REDD + and capacity building, and the national, regional and international levels, this allows to make their voices heard in decision making. More than 27 countries now have concrete solutions or mechanisms to promote the full participation of indigenous peoples, civil society and forest-dependent communities. Of these countries, 14 have developed more sophisticated concrete mechanisms to enable them to involve stakeholders in their national REDD + process through

representation on national bodies of REDD + and / or strengthening areas of participation. Nine countries have implemented activities to adapt and apply the UN-REDD Program Guidelines on the prior consent given freely and knowingly (FPIC in English) and the Guidelines on handling mechanisms of complaints (in English) at local and national levels. About 270 interested stakeholder organizations have been aware of REDD + on the occasion of international and regional events. Meanwhile, more than 170 indigenous peoples' organizations and civil society participated in international processes of REDD +, such as the UNFCCC. So for the single year 2014:

- Community-Based REDD + (CBR +), new partnership with the Small Grants Program of the UNDP / GEF initiated in May 2014, will allocate directly to communities REDD + funding in six pilot countries (Cambodia, DRC, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay and Sri Lanka) this year. In these six countries, the work of developing the national plan of CBR+, conducted in consultation with communities and other stakeholders, comes to an end;
- A global group of five organizations of indigenous peoples (Masyarakat Adat Nusantara the Aliansi - AMAN, the Inter-Ethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest - AIDSESEP, the Group of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin - COICA; the Mesoamerican Alliance peoples and forests - AMPB and the Network of indigenous and local communities in the management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa - REPALÉAC) participated in the forests action area and the forests pavilion at the Climate Summit organized by the UN General Secretary and submitted a joint statement on the need to protect their rights to the highest international levels, with support from the UN-REDD Program;
- Ivory Coast has developed a national plan for the participation of stakeholders in an ascendant participatory process, based on a series of consultations and discussions held between June and August 2014. The CSO forum for debate and for REDD + and FLEGT indigenous populations process was reinforced in;
- In Viet Nam, the representation of CSOs and of ethnic minorities in the Executive Council of the Program was increased during phase II of the UN-REDD Program through a self-appointment process. The mechanisms that make easier the representations contributions in decision-making have been consolidated thanks to the design of work plans with particular emphasis on the six pilot provinces;

- Honduras, PNG, Paraguay and Viet Nam have developed national and local guidelines for FPIC. In Honduras, a national workshop organized in partnership with the International Labour Organization and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has also enabled 30 indigenous leaders and 20 state officials to consolidate their knowledge of FPIC;
- In Bangladesh, Myanmar and Viet Nam, a series of national debates on REDD +, organized in partnership with the Asian Pact of Indigenous Peoples, has fostered collaboration between indigenous populations and governments on REDD +.

Challenges:

The risk is that stakeholder participation is not properly anticipated and funded by countries as they progress in the REDD + process. It also happens that countries underestimate the scope, scale and cost of the activities necessary to ensure full participation. In some countries, targeted support and technical backing provided at the development, implementation and / or completion of national programs have avoided this pitfall.

Lessons to be learned:

- Ensuring the quality of the participation of marginalized stakeholders, such as indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities, requires stronger support and more resources than what is usually expected. This is particularly the case in countries where the UN interlocutors are not present and do not have the capacity to understand and support the full participation of these stakeholders. That is why it is essential to strengthen the capacity of national authorities;
- It is also essential to invest in capacity building and encourage the self-organization of collective stakeholders. This ensures that they have the individual and organizational capacity necessary for effective participation in the REDD + process. The experiments on dispute resolutions show that it is essential to devote time and resources to monitoring processes that build trust and dialogue between public authorities, the UN, indigenous peoples and civil society, and thus lay a solid foundation for a real involvement of stakeholders.

Recommendations:

- Above all, it will be necessary to ensure that stakeholders participation is actually taken into account in the REDD + process beyond the preparation phase, particularly in developing and implementing national REDD + strategies. This will require investment in

the main mechanisms of participation, for example by ensuring the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms in partner countries.

- As the debates and activities on REDD+ are growing in a country, we must seek to go beyond the general participation and move towards a comprehensive and thematic participation. Issues such as land rights to forest monitoring and the distribution of benefits have a direct impact on indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities. As REDD + will enter its implementation phase, it will be crucial to incorporate participatory processes for these lines of work.

d) guarantee and multiple benefits:

The goal is that "guarantees are addressed and respected and the multiple benefits of REDD + materialized"

Progress made:

Six countries (Cambodia, Costa Rica, DRC, Ecuador, PNG and Zambia) have identified key elements for a national guarantees approach and / or integrated multiple benefits in their planning for REDD +, supported to UN-REDD varying degrees Program and in collaboration with other national and international initiatives. Through the application of the support frame of the UN-REDD Program to develop national guarantees approaches, it was easier to implement the first priority of the program, which is to help countries comply with the recommendations and guidelines of the UNFCCC in connection with guarantees. The Framework has clarified the different guarantee approaches at national level, with the aim to contribute as much as possible to better forest governance and a more permanent REDD +. In 2014, here are some specific examples of national guarantee achievements and multiple benefits of REDD +:

- Costa Rica has a plan to implement its national guarantee approach;
- Costa Rica, Ecuador and Papua New Guinea (PNG) evaluated the PLR for collateral;
- PNG has defined a roadmap for implementation and proposed principles, criteria and guarantees indicators;
- Costa Rica and Ecuador have identified the main lines of their development of a GIS process. Zambia has studied how the valuation of forest livelihoods and economic use of land, which supplies the NNSW data and other relevant information sources, can participate in GIS;

- DRC, Kenya, Nigeria, Paraguay and Vietnam have improved their capacity for spatial analysis in order to encourage decisions, taking into account the multiple benefits and Cambodia has developed a tool to assess the costs and benefits of REDD +;
- Countries have increased their capacity to develop national approaches to REDD + guarantees, thanks to supporting tools such as the tool for a national guarantee approach (CAST) and training for its use.

Among the tools and extra resources made available in 2014 mention may be made of:

- Tool for a national guarantees approach, accompanied by his User Guide in English, Spanish and French in July 2014;
- The Identification Tool of benefits and risks (version 2);
- The report on the potential economic benefits of the multiple interests in Panama (in English);
- Training materials and modules for free GIS (in English) to help with planning land use;
- ArcGIS toolkit: Discover the many benefits to ArcGIS10 and ArcGIS 10.1;
- Communicating the social and environmental benefits of REDD + in Peru () .

Challenge:

Some initiatives on guarantees, though well intentioned and enlightened, have not been programmed at the most opportune time, as part of a broader process of REDD +. Thus, the risk is that countries prefer working on developing a GIS before defining an approach that allows taking into account and complying with guarantees or even fail, and before identifying possible REDD + activities.

Lessons to be learned:

- The UN-REDD Program, which designed its support in connection with guarantees and GIS in the context of a national guarantees approach and prioritizing the implementation of Cancún objectives was useful for countries;
- In different regions, it is necessary to identify and evaluate systematically the lessons learned, as well as collect experiences from the point of the first applications of a national approach;
- The emphasis on communication and collaboration (national and agencies) has promoted the establishment of fruitful exchanges on the specific needs of countries in terms of guarantees and the achievement of multiple benefits from REDD +;

- In order for the development of the GIS to be done in a timely and effective manner, it is essential to move one step at a time.

Recommendations:

The UN-REDD Program must:

- increase knowledge sharing, to give priority to collecting of experiences and lessons learned, promoting South-South collaboration on guarantees;
- predict funding mechanisms, based on the national approach, with more stringent operational arrangements in view of activities and results-based payments;
- Strengthen even further the cooperation between the UN-REDD Program, the FCPF and NSE on support REDD + on guarantees at national, regional and international levels;
- Establish closer links between strategy / action plans and work on multiple benefits, to focus more on analysis and facilitate the ramp-up of results.

e) Green economy and private sector:

The transition to a green economy strategies and investment in REDD + are mutually reinforcing

Progress made:

The program is currently investing in a work of strategic interest analysis: economic evaluation of forest ecosystems, tax policy analysis, arguments in favor of REDD +, analyzing the value chains of commodities, estimating opportunity costs of various land uses as well as gaps and opportunities in terms of financing for REDD +. Further efforts were made to encourage and strengthen the participation of the private sector, the gradual transition to a green economy and the establishment of national platforms and dialogue between the public and private sectors. Through this work, the process of developing national action plans / strategies is enriched by initiatives and innovative measures to fight against the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The partnering countries are increasingly determined to ensure that the strategies and investments in REDD + reinforce the transition to the green economy, as evidenced of the growing number of requests for support in this regard (see table). The results and progress in 2014 include:

- In the new UN-REDD national programs, such as those of Argentina and Honduras, the aspects related to the investment in favor of REDD +, of the green economy and multiple benefits are an integral part of the work for developing national strategies for REDD +;
- Panama and Paraguay have completed their estimates of the opportunity costs of REDD +, to fight against changes in land use related to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The results will feed into the development of their national REDD + strategy; which, reciprocally help to put in place processes involving REDD + and green economy;
- Kenya and Panama have completed the contribution evaluation that the forests represent to their national economies; Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nepal, Tanzania and Zambia just the start. This work aims to build a business case demonstrating the interest of sustainable forestry investment over traditional land uses and to supply the national REDD + strategies. In Zambia, Forest Ecosystem Assessment findings are therefore included in the draft of the national strategy for REDD +;
- The publication and presentation in April 2014 in Washington, in partnership with the initiative Landscapes in the service of people, food and nature, of a report entitled Integrated investment strategies for landscape and involving the potential landscaping investments that produce multiple benefits. The paper presents an argument to convince financial institutions of the need to take into account the integrated landscape management in their offers;
- The publication of a global report entitled 'Enhancing natural capital: the support that REDD + can contribute to the green economy (also available in Spanish, English and Bahasa) at the Asia Summit on Forests, held in Jakarta in March 2014. the report provides policy makers, business leaders and the general public with innovative ideas for the development of a green economy while extending / preserving forest cover
- Ghana, Indonesia and Peru set up national platforms on main commodities contributing to deforestation.

Challenges:

- There are economic arguments for REDD + but companies will take action against deforestation only if governments have the political will and capacity to implement a set of suitable catalysts. Moreover, we also know that the economic arguments for REDD + are likely to favor the interests of the private sector if we are not careful;

- Given the innovative nature of the work conducted on the transition to a green economy and the need for sustained political commitment over the long term in order to implement the transition process, changes of government pose a significant risk;
- The existence of accessible data is critical to conduct an economic evaluation of forest ecosystem services and results can vary widely depending on the chosen method of analysis.

Lessons to be learned:

- The Indonesian experience shows that involvement at the highest level associated with research and empirical measurements can be used to achieve the transition to a green economy;
- It is essential to understand the context in which businesses operate, including the difficulties they face and help them reduce uncertainty if we are to guarantee the success of initiatives for green procurement commodity. One way to reduce uncertainty is to promote dialogue between the public and private sectors, based on knowledge drawn from economic arguments in the UN-REDD Program;
- Given the magnitude of the task of transition to a green economy, countries may tend to want to address all problems at once. It is essential to ask very specific substantive questions to guide the work on evaluations on the estimation of opportunity costs and payments for ecosystem services.

Recommendations:

Care must be taken to minimize implementation costs and transaction funding solutions for REDD +. It is time that REDD+ planning activities reflect the fact that implementation solutions (e.g. The scope of MRV systems and the technologies used; the scope of information systems on guarantees; activities to slow or reverse deforestation etc.) must include a cost execution and transaction analysis. Policies, activities and REDD + measures will be more parsimonious and flexible while providing a cost / effectiveness link, and their demands on stakeholders and will be compatible with local capacities.

f) Knowledge Management and Communication:

Development, management, analysis and sharing of knowledge of the UN-REDD Program to support efforts for REDD + at all levels

Progress made:

Thanks to the efforts of the UN-REDD Program in the field of knowledge management and communications, a greater number of practitioners of REDD + (including a growing number of women) was able to acquire knowledge related to capacity building. New training needs have been identified among stakeholders; South-South training was strengthened and understanding by stakeholders of the UNFCCC guidelines on REDD + and preparing questions and implementing REDD + has been improved. Support Program to stakeholders for knowledge management and communication was greatly strengthened in 2014:

- The development and dissemination to partner countries of an increasingly wide variety of media, tools and educational resources that meet their needs.
- Regional assessments of educational needs of partner countries have identified existing gaps.
- The establishment of the final version of the Strategic Framework for Knowledge Management 2014-2015 UN-REDD Program
- The dissemination of knowledge related to REDD + through strengthening the communication functions of the Program, including the reactivation and extension of its main communication channels: reissue of the Program's newsletter; increase of more than 50 percent of the audience of social media of the Program; 500 percent increase in the involvement of REDD + practitioners in learning resources online and greater participation of women (representing 40 percent of stakeholders involved in the program online).
- Creation and establishment of the Academy for REDD + (see Zoom)
- Organization of several regional events for exchanges of knowledge on key technical issues raised by REDD + (formulation of national REDD + strategies, development of national systems monitoring of forests, etc.).
- Joint organization by the FCPF and UN-REDD Program of an International Day of knowledge sharing on REDD +, which was held in the margins of the thirteenth meeting of the Policy Board of the UN-REDD Program and in which partner countries were able to exchange experiences and discoveries addressing major technical issues of REDD +. Knowledge identified by the UN-REDD Program is available: on Internet, the workspace, the newsletter, blog, YouTube channel, Facebook page and Twitter account of the UN-REDD program. Publication media from January to December 2014. More than 60 educational materials were published, with nine

editions of the newsletter, over 50 publications, two information online platforms, etc. The full list is available here (in English). Some of the key supports made available in 2014:

- Seven articles on the work on the National Forest Inventory (NFI), accepted in scientific journals with referees.
- A video on greenhouse gases and the national forest inventory of Panama (Watch Video)
- New approaches to reference emission levels for forest and / or reference levels for forests for the REDD + (English).

Challenges:

- The main challenge of the UN-REDD Program in knowledge management is to meet the growing needs of partner countries. The program now includes 56 partner countries, with heterogeneous needs since some are just starting to develop their preparedness plan for REDD + while others are now moving to implementation. This requires adapting the approach to the specific requirements of each country, while providing new opportunities for knowledge sharing among developing countries. The program has already begun to consider ways to expand its field of activity in terms of knowledge management to meet these national requirements in 2015 and beyond.

Lessons to be learned:

- In terms of knowledge, each country has its own needs and resources must be adapted to its specific features. To do this, the UN-REDD Program designs the supports knowledge according to the requirements of the partner countries.
- More and more countries can share their experiences of REDD + and knowledge exchange is essential to strengthening the capacities to realizing REDD +.
- The knowledge should be methodically ordered to be treated effectively.
- The events organized at the regional level can encourage holding events at the national level through the training of trainers.

Recommendations:

- Launching the updated version of the collaborative workspace online of the UN-REDD Program. This online learning tool for REDD + community will allow

REDD + practitioners to have access to knowledge and enable partner countries to connect and share their corpus, more substantial knowledge, every day;

- A rich catalog of training materials on REDD + will be translated into the official languages of the Program to meet growing demand and to promote South-South trade which is more and more numerous in all regions and in all languages;
- From regional assessments of educational needs conducted in 2014, a growing number of events will be organized at regional and international levels in order to increase knowledge on REDD + as well and meet the needs of each country;
- The Academy for REDD + will be divided regionally to meet the knowledge needs of geographic areas and will be organized in all regions of the program. In addition, the sessions will train instructors who will resume classes at national level, meeting the educational requirements specific to countries and promoting their ownership of the process.

2.3.Other initiatives on REDD +:

REDD + is an ambitious project, considering its multi-sector and composite dimension and its high financial need and necessary capacity for its implementation. It is therefore important that development partners coordinate technical and financial assistance programs to better serve their costumer countries. That is why there are often interrelationships, occasionally very strong between the various initiatives, particularly at the decision making bodies.

2.3.1. The Forest Investment Program:

The Forest Investment Program (FIP) supports countries' efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management that leads to emission reductions (ER) and improvement of carbon stocks forestry (REDD +). The FIP focuses on major investments in a small number of key countries to achieve economic transformation and generate global knowledge. The FIP is currently active in eight pilot countries (Brazil, Burkina Faso, DRC, Ghana, Indonesia, Laos, Mexico and Peru), which are also participants in the FCPF countries (except Brazil).

The implementation at the country level is based on FIP investment plans that have been developed through country-level led process and builds the image of the FCPF Readiness Mechanism or equivalent and similar processes in the R-PP or emerging REDD + strategies. Coherence and cooperation between the various activities of the FCPF and FIP were performed particularly in DRC, Ghana, Indonesia and Mexico, as governments have ensured

that the planning of the activity is closely coordinated between the two initiatives. At the Secretariat level, the FCPF is an observer to the governing body of the FIP and shares relevant information with the Committee, for example, the Evaluation Framework for the preparation of the FCPF. FIP also attends meetings of the FCPF Participants Committee and FIP presents the work of development activities in countries that are simultaneously supported by the FCPF Preparation Fund. The FIP has also continued to benefit from the FCPF roster for the independent review of investment plans before approval by the FIP Sub-Committee.

The FIP has commissioned a comprehensive study on the link between the financing of the FIP investment and REDD + performance-based mechanisms. At the meeting of the FIP Subcommittee in June 2014, it was recommended to prepare a document to provide guidance on the link between the financing of the FIP investment and REDD + performance-based mechanisms, taking into account the REDD + architecture and the Warsaw Framework for REDD +.

The investment plans for all eight FIP pilot countries were approved, ending the programming phase in those countries. The pilot countries in collaboration with relevant multilateral development banks, now prepare and implement projects and programs to support REDD + priorities described in the investment plans. At March 31, 2014, financing for FIP for a total of 11 projects and programs had been approved by the FIP Sub-Committee totaling USD 197.4 million (169 260 000 USD in grants and 28.14 million dollars in credits with interest rates close to zero). These resources should mobilize a total of 741 420 000 USD co-financing (ratio 1 / 3.8). Two FIP projects (Lao PDR and Mexico) are currently implementing ongoing and disburse FIP resources.

At March 31, 2014, the Subcommittee had reviewed and approved funding for the FIP for the following four projects:

- Brazil: forestry information to support public and private sectors in managing initiatives focused on conservation and enhancement of forest resources (IDB);
- Burkina Faso: the decentralized management of forests and woodlands (IBRD);
- Burkina Faso: Participatory Forest Management Project for REDD + (ADB);
- Ghana: participation of local communities on REDD + / improvement of carbon stocks, (ADB); and
- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): Improved mapping management of forest, (IBRD).

At that time, all the projects listed above were also approved by the respective multilateral development banks.

2.3.2. BioCarbon Fund:

The BioCarbon Fund (BioCF) is a public-private carbon funds, operational since 2004. They are pioneers projects in sequestering or conserving carbon in forest and agro-ecosystems for climate change mitigation and improved livelihood. The overall objective of the Fund is to demonstrate that land-based activities can generate reductions of high quality emissions with strong environmental and socioeconomic benefits for local communities. In the first generation trust funds, about 80 percent of BioCF resources were allocated to afforestation and reforestation projects under the Clean Development Mechanism.

The rest was allocated to REDD + and sustainable land management initiatives (including agriculture). BioCF projects have a range of different purposes, including the production of firewood, timber and environmental restoration. With the development of 10 methodologies for CDM-approved and a variety of capacity and awareness activities, BioCF has actively promoted the development of forest carbon market and is pioneering forest carbon transactions on the basis of local knowledge. The BioCF delivered 80-90 percent in carbon asset of its participants.

Most carbon assets will be used to meet compliance targets under the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, which ended in 2012. In 2014 BioCF has stepped up efforts on the new Initiative for sustainable forest management by 'Landscape approach (SAA). Launched in 2013, SAA is based on the teachings and the experience of a record of success based on 10 years of monitoring projects based on carbon finance in the area of land use. Multilateral facility promotes and rewards the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases from the use of land, including REDD +, a more sustainable agriculture, as well as planning and optimal land use policies.

SAA will help countries in identifying and promoting good practices of agricultural land use and land use for low carbon in selected geographical areas where farming is a major cause of deforestation. The initiative will build a portfolio of competence schemes distributed in various geographical areas with a significant impact and capable of transforming rural areas through forest protection, restoration of degraded land, the improvement of agricultural productivity, means of livelihoods and the local environment. The first jurisdiction to be

added to the SAA pipeline was Oromia, Ethiopia. The BioCF also added a program in Zambia.

2.3.3. The French Fund for Global Environment

At the Copenhagen conference in December 2009, it has thus committed to spend approximately € 250 million over 3 years for forests, 20% of its total commitment on fast start finance. This objective was achieved. Since 2010, fast start REDD + financing from France were made via several multilateral channels, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), and bilateral, the French Development Agency (AFD) and the French global Environment Facility (FFEM). At the multilateral level, France has worked to create the new program against deforestation and sustainable forest management at the last replenishment of the GEF: € 75 million on its contribution to FEM5 of 215M € (up 40%) used to finance forestry projects. Finally, in 2010, France was at the origin with Norway of the creation of the Interim REDD + Partnership, which she co-chaired with Brazil in the first half of 2011.

The CASCADE project helped to develop African expertise by carrying out concrete CDM projects in agriculture, forestry and bioenergy. In each of the seven target countries (Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Madagascar, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal), the program has implemented actions of institutional support, of capacity building, support to the development of appropriate pilot projects in various fields, including business led plantations, community reforestation and biofuels, in order to create new opportunities for Africa's CDM participation and voluntary carbon markets.

2.4. The Norway International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI):

Norway international initiative on forests and climate (NICFI) supports REDD + design and international agenda. The main objective of NICFI is to help establish a comprehensive and long-term binding regime after 2012 which will ensure GHG emission reductions necessary and sufficient to limit the increase in global temperature to no more than 2 ° C.

Annual NICFI's commitments have reached 517 million US \$. NICFI contributes to several multilateral and bilateral initiatives, including the Fund for Brazilian Amazonia, the forest of the Congo Basin Fund, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and Forest Investment Program.

Since 2007 a total of seven funds have been pledged in early 2013 reaching \$ 2.78 billion for REDD +. Despite the interest in the possibility of exploiting the market-based mechanisms to finance REDD + programs, these mechanisms have not yet reached cruising speed. In late 2012, 84% of the funding promises were made. Norway is the largest contributor of REDD + funding, followed by the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States. From 2008 to 2012, funds have approved \$ 1.12 billion for REDD + activities. The payment, however, was slower (up to \$ 486 million) and mainly oriented towards global programs (40%).

Table 3 : Situation of funds solely financing REDD + projects in 2012

Fund / Initiative	Engaged	submitted	approved	Paid	No. approved projects
The Amazon Fund	1032.44	102.79	168.71	45.94	33
Carbon Fund - Partnership Facility Forest Carbon (FCFPCF)	218.3	138.1	0.57	0.2	1
Preparation Facility - Partnership Facility Forest Carbon (FP-FCPF)	239.4	212.59	31.03	11.46	27
Investment program for the forest (FIP)	612	446	50.96	3.59	24
International Initiative on Forest and Climate (Norway) (ICFI)	1,607.82	1,607.82	533.21	276.44	13
UN-REDD	151.49	118.89	116.13	97.93	18
International Forest Carbon Initiative (Australia) (IFCI)	216.27	67.06	125.54	31.7	9
Forest Fund for the Congo Basin (CBFF)	165	165	95.38	18.59	37

Source: Concept note on climate finance: REDD + funding, Liane Schalatek et al, 2012,

Much of the REDD + funding has benefited to the activities of "preparation". Multilateral funds focused on REDD + financing (FCPF, FIP, UN-REDD), bilateral initiatives (ICFI Norwegian and Australian IFCI) and national and regional trust funds (and the Amazon Basin Fund Congo) provide 83% of funding approved for activities related to REDD +. The Global Alliance against climate change, Indonesia's Climate Change Fund, the Fund for the MDGs, the International Climate Initiative (Germany), the International Climate Fund (United

Kingdom) and Japanese initiative for rapid Financing approved overall \$ 219 million for REDD + activities in 2012.

In 2012, about 58% of total approved REDD + funding are oriented in five countries (Guyana, Brazil, Indonesia, DRC, Mexico). Also at that date, the approved funding (\$ 224 million) helped global programs and 18 accounted for the largest share of funding paid. The funding mechanism for civil society, which is administered by the Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation and falls within the ICFI, is one of the world's leading programs. It supports a large number of civil society organizations in the implementation of activities in several countries.

In late 2012, some \$ 598 million have been approved for 56 projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first recipient region of climate funds for REDD + activities. No less than \$ 132 million was paid out in late 2012. Approximately \$ 236 million was approved for 72 projects undertaken in sub-Saharan Africa, and \$ 69 million were paid (the DRC is the largest recipient country in the region), while \$ 229 million was approved for 37 projects in Asia and the Pacific and \$ 70 million, paid. Indonesia was the first recipient of REDD + funding countries in Asia, with \$ 58 million paid.

2.5. The Global Alliance project to fight against climate change (GCCA Global Climate Change Alliance)

The GCCA has been established by the European Union (EU) in 2007 to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with developing countries, especially to the least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

It started his work in just four pilot countries. Today, it has a budget of over € 300 million and is one of the most important climate initiatives worldwide. It supports 51 programs worldwide and is active in 38 countries, 8 regions and sub-regions and at global level.

Promoting dialogue and cooperation on effective climate change, the Alliance helps to ensuring that poor developing countries and the most vulnerable to climate change increase their capacity to adapt to climate change, in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Whereas this benefits their objectives of poverty reduction, the Alliance also helps to strengthen the participation of these countries to the global climate change mitigation efforts.

In 2014, a new phase of the GCCA, GCCA + leading initiative, started in line with the new multiannual financial framework of the European Commission (2014-2020).

The GCCA+ aims at increasing the effectiveness of its response to country needs and vulnerable groups. Using ambitious and innovative approaches, it will achieve its objectives by leveraging its two mutually reinforcing pillars namely:

- Under the first pillar, the GCCA + serves as a platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences between the EU and developing countries, focusing on climate policy and bringing renewed attention to the question of international climate finance. The results feed the negotiations for a new climate agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Under the second pillar, the GCCA + acts as a source of technical and financial support for the most vulnerable countries for climate change in the world which populations are most in need of funding on climate. Additional efforts will be made to strengthen issues of strategic importance to the ecosystem-based adaptation, migration and gender equality. The GCCA supports the carbon emission reduction due to deforestation and forest degradation. And creates quotations for their protection. At the same time, it seeks the preservation of livelihoods and ecosystems depending on forests.

3. REDD SITUATION IN ECOWAS COUNTRIES:

It is only recently that REDD approach was recognized as emission reduction mechanism after the Climate Conference in Copenhagen in 2009.

The majority of funded projects tend to involve sectors such as hydro or wind energy. In 2008, afforestation and reforestation projects accounted for only 7% of the volume of transactions in the voluntary carbon market (Peskett et al, 2010).

The table below summarizes the main types of carbon finance available and the current level of African participation and West African countries to these funding mechanisms.

Table 4 : Level of participation of African and West African REDD + funding

	MDP	Marché de carbone volontaire	Fonds associé à REDD			Autres fonds	
			REDD-NU	FCPF	Programme d'investissement forestier	Fonds bio-carbone	Fonds carbone développement communautaire
Types de projets forestiers	Boisement Reboisement	Boisement Reboisement REDD	Aider les pays en développement à élaborer et mettre en œuvre des stratégies REDD+ au niveau national	Aider les pays en développement à élaborer et mettre en œuvre des stratégies REDD+ au niveau national	Aider les pays en développement à élaborer et mettre en œuvre des stratégies REDD+ au niveau national	Boisement Reboisement REDD (explorer le carbone agricole)	Essentiellement des projets non forestiers
Niveau de participation – Afrique	3,2% des projets en Afrique en 2008	1,2% des projets en Afrique en 2008	3 pays africains parmi les 12 pays pilotes. 6 autres pays africains ont le statut d'observateur	14 pays africains sur 37 pays participant	3 pays sur les 8 pays pilotes sont africains	6 des 15 conventions d'achat signées concernent des pays africains	7 des 31 conventions d'achat signées concernent des pays africains
Niveau de participation – Afrique de l'Ouest	Libéria (1 projet) Nigeria (5 projets), Sierra Leone (1 projet et 1 proposition); Mali, Sénégal et Mauritanie (1 projet conjoint)	Incertain	Le Nigeria a un statut d'observateur	le Ghana a un R-PP validé et le Libéria a terminé son R-PIN. Le Burkina Faso a un statut d'observateur	Le Burkina Faso et le Ghana font partie des pays pilotes	Le Mali et le Niger ont des projets financés	Le Sénégal a un projet financé dans le domaine de l'efficacité énergétique
Potentiel pour les projets communautaires	Les coûts de transaction élevés et la lourdeur administrative limitent le potentiel. La majorité des projets MDP sont concentrés dans de grands marchés comme l'Inde, la Chine et le Brésil	Soutenu par l'intermédiaire approprié, les communautés dans les pays en développement ont pu accéder au marché carbone volontaire	Dépend du degré d'intégration des approches communautaires dans les stratégies nationales	Dépend du degré d'intégration des approches communautaires dans les stratégies nationales	Dépend du degré d'intégration des approches communautaires dans les stratégies nationales	Plusieurs activités communautaires financées	Visait à financer des activités communautaires. La plupart des activités financées concernent l'énergie à petite échelle, la biomasse, le gaz d'enfouissement, etc.

Sources: Peskett et al (2010), <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/projsearch.html>; <http://www.un-redd.org>; <http://forestcarbonpartnership.org>; <http://wbcarbonfinance.org/Router.cfm?Page=Funds&ItemID=24670>; <http://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/node/5>

Low participation of African countries in various carbon finance mechanisms is noted. In 2007, the total value of financial transactions on the CDM market was US \$ 6.5 billion, while the voluntary carbon market reached US \$ 397 million. The scope of these markets has also rapidly increased in recent years (with however a slowdown, not long ago because of the financial crisis). Projects in Africa, however, represent only 3.2% and 1.2% respectively in carbon trading volumes at the CDM and voluntary markets (Peskett et al, 2010). A policy note by the World Agroforestry Centre (2009) highlights that Africa has more than a hundred bio-carbon projects ranging from the preservation of forests in agroforestry, as well as many sustainable land management programs. The East Africa holds the largest share of bio-carbon projects in Africa, including Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania with a total of 43 projects. Most African projects are at an early stage with less than 5% that already generate financial benefits to local communities. The World Agroforestry Centre indicates that the development of carbon projects in Africa faces constraints which name the complexity of the rules set by buyers, the high cost of evaluation by certifying structures and poor governance. Moreover, poor countries with low levels of literacy lack the human, technological and institutional capacity necessary to conduct monitoring of bio-carbon process.

3.1.The REDD + Situation in Benin:

The level of inclusion of REDD + in Benin is still low. In 2011 a Beninese expert (CBD Focal Point) attended the regional consultation and capacity building workshop for Africa on REDD-plus "held in Cape Town, South Africa from 20 to 23 September 2011.

In 2014 two Beninese experts have developed an action plan for the implementation of REDD in three countries in the sub-region namely Benin, Togo and Burkina Faso. For lack of funding this action plan is not implemented. The experts are still seeking funding for the action plan.

The Benin having not implemented its REDD + strategy by lack of funding, there is a need for capacity building in the field of management and biodiversity conservation in state structures, civil society, local communities.

3.2.The REDD situation in Burkina Faso:

Country with low forest cover, Burkina Faso is one of eight pilot countries of the Forest Investment Program. The report from the FIP scoping mission which took place in October

2010 shows that Burkina Faso was selected by the FIP Sub-Committee's Group of Experts to be part of the pilot countries due to the participatory management of its forest resources and the fact that the country shares its experience in this area with other countries (Benin, Togo).

In this context, Burkina Faso prepared an Investment Plan (IP) with the help of the World Bank which was approved by the FIP Sub-Committee November 6, 2012 and funding of \$ 30 million was granted. Following the adoption of the PI, Burkina has started since January 2013 the preparation of two projects of the PIF program: i) the decentralized management of Forests and Woodlands Spaces Project (PGDEB) through a PIF funding executed by the World Bank, and Participatory Forest Management Project classified for REDD + (GCF / REDD +) implemented by the African Development Bank. These two projects will take place in particular complementarity with the Support Project Forest Sector (FSAP) financed by the Luxembourg Cooperation and the Swedish Cooperation.

The strategic options for REDD target GHG emission reduction goals, additional carbon sequestration and improving living conditions of people in the fight against poverty.

To reduce the level of forest emissions, the national REDD strategy will be based on the four main areas of interventions selected to enable to address the drivers of deforestation / degradation: *land use, land tenure security, management of agro-forestry-pastoral systems, capacity building, policy harmonization and the promotion of good governance* of natural resources, particularly forest.

Emission reductions were estimated in the following table:

Table 5 : GHG emission reduction expected in Burkina Faso

Expected Result	Emission Reduction (tC / year)	Emission Reduction (tC / year)
Bushfires contained	5,167,500	27.17%
State forests (current) equipped	3,180,000	16.72%
Municipalities Forests equipped	3,180,000	16.72%
Contained agricultural expansion	2,782,500	14.63%
overgrazing contained	1,844,400	9.70%
Economics from Wood fires and coal	1,000,000	5.26%
Agro-forestry measures (additional agro-forestry plantations)	700,000	3.68%

forests of equipped Regions	530,000	2.79%
State Forest (new) equipped	265,000	1.39%
equipped communities Forests	265,000	1.39%
Woodland reforestation	53,200	0.28%
Mining anarchic exploitation contained	53,000	0.28%
TOTAL	19,020,600	100%

3.3.The REDD situation in Ivory Coast:

REDD + Policy and institutional framework in Ivory Coast:

The Ivory Coast is heavily involved in the discussions on the implementation of the REDD + mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

This commitment is marked by the decision Decree No. 2012-1049 of 24 October 2012 endorsing the national REDD + process and specifies the national institutional framework for its implementation:

- The Ministry of Environment, of Urban Safety and Sustainable Development (MINESUDD) is responsible for leading the national REDD + process, through a REDD + National Committee (NC-REDD +);
- A Permanent Executive Secretariat (SEP / REDD +) is set up to handle the daily planning, mobilizing financial resources, technical support and the participative dynamics of the national preparation process for REDD + mechanism.

Review of REDD + activities in Ivory Coast:

the initiatives undertaken include:

- A partnership with the FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) of the European Union, as part of an EU-FAO Program;
- The creation of a joint platform FLEGT / REDD + civil society organizations;

- The integration and effective participation of non-governmental actors, including civil society and the private sector;
- The establishment of an inter-ministerial Task Force, led by the Ministry of Planning and Development, to support the national policy dialogue on REDD +;
- Ivory Coast has incorporated, since 2011, the two international platforms supporting reference to REDD + and that are:
 - the UN-REDD Program (partnership FAO / UNDP / UNEP);
 - the Forest Carbon Partnership (FCP) supported by the World Bank.
- The development and adoption in July 2014 of the Preparation Plan for REDD+ (R-PP).

This plan, result of months of planning, technical exchanges, multi-stakeholder consultations and dialogue with international partners, as well as UN-REDD and FCPF missions and roadmap, represents the national REDD + process in the period 2014- 2017 first stage of a process that will allow the country to be ready to participate in REDD + from 2017.

Financial support of REDD + in Ivory Coast:

The current financial support is intended to accompany the implementation of the Readiness Plan for REDD (R-PP):

- Support since 2013 of the French Development Agency (AFD) under the Contract of Debt-Reduction and Development (C2D) and the REDD + Facility in the European Union (EU-REDD);
- Mobilizing nearly US \$ 10 million from these international partners. reflecting the strong national and political will to engage in REDD + and the international recognition of this commitment.

The total budget of R-PP is US \$ 19.63 million of which more than half (US \$ 10.373 million) already acquired through a multi-stakeholder approach. The remaining US \$ 9.3 million is subject to active research funding by the Permanent Executive Secretariat of REDD +.

Funding Plan:

- About 65% of the total budget (US \$ 12,631,000) is allocated to the heart of preparatory activities for REDD +;

- 35% (US \$ 7 million) are intended for the implementation of REDD + pilot projects to identify concrete field experiences and enable populations living near forests to engage directly and collect the numerous and tangible benefits the REDD + process can bring beyond the preparation phase.

The R-PP defines and share roles and budget allocations between international partners engaged in Ivory Coast and guarantees, thus, good coordination of the various technical and financial support (UN-REDD, FCPF, AFD, IRD and EU-REDD).

Thus, it is expected that the UN-REDD focuses its support on the following key areas:

- ***Support to stakeholder engagement, around two main lines of action:***
 - Supporting civil society's organization / participation, including supporting the work of civil society's FLEGT / REDD + platform;
 - Implementation of the Stakeholder's Engagement Plan for REDD +;
 - a mid-term review of the engagement process with stakeholders and the quality of participation / consultation on the FLEGT and REDD +, to improve the participation approaches, consultation and civil society engagement in REDD process+.
- ***Depth analysis of the drivers of deforestation*** - with the assistance of other analytical work - for a national consensus on strategic options for REDD +. Indeed, the UN-REDD is also funding an assessment of the multiple benefits of REDD +, based on the experience of UNEP.

These two analytical projects will contribute, with the assistance of other analytical work financed by the FCPF, AFD, the EFI / EU and the Government, to seeking a national consensus on the strategic options for REDD +, as a point start to building the National REDD + Strategy.

The assessment of the multiple benefits reinforces the FCPF SESA supports and provide indicators and data to develop Information System on Backups.

- ***Review of financial options for REDD +***, for the establishment of a national REDD + Fund;
Setting a preliminary reference level for REDD + essential to assess the real impacts of REDD + activities.

This benchmark takes into account the historical rates of deforestation and forest degradation, taking into account the historical emissions of greenhouse gases and national circumstances. ;

- ***Construction of National Forest Monitoring System (SNSF)***, one of the pillars of the REDD + operation to be built as a prerequisite based monitoring system, Measurement, Reporting and Verification of forest carbon (S & MRV). FAO will provide technical-advisory support and core funding to build the SNSF and the S & MNV;
- ***Design of an information system on safeguards for REDD + following the UNFCCC directives***, including the Cancun Agreements (2010) and the Warsaw framework on REDD + (2013). This work is closely related to the content of the national REDD + strategy and based on the results and data of the SESA and the analysis of the multiple benefits of REDD +;
- ***Support of consultations and multi-stakeholder dialogue on REDD +*** during the construction of the National REDD + Strategy, the meetings of the inter-ministerial Task force on REDD +, technical training and strategic planning on REDD +, participatory analysis on REDD + governance, the high-level political dialogue, international commitment of Ivory Coast, social and field surveys to power the REDD + process and other consultations and multi-stakeholder outreach activities on various topics related to preparation activities for REDD +.

These projects are closely aligned to the supports provided by:

- The CFPF:
 - Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA);
 - modeling of development scenarios and their REDD + dimensions.
- ***AFD / C2D program*** (notably on mapping and remote sensing that can power the SNSF)
- ***and EU-REDD*** on the relationship agriculture-forests, one of the strategic options identified in the R-PP.

Finally, **the UN-REDD plays a catalytic role in building the National REDD + Strategy of the Ivory Coast**, integrating, iteratively, analytical work, the multi-stakeholder consultation, policy dialogue, prospective and strategic planning, in order to **achieve a robust national strategy document, credible, viable and with tangible objectives and its own performance evaluation measures.**

Some strategic options for REDD + in Ivory Coast:

A set of policy options for REDD + have been identified in the R-PP with 4 sectorial options and 2 transversal options.

On the analytical basis and of consultations already carried out, the country anticipates the following strategic options:

- Decoupling between agricultural production and deforestation by promoting farming practices has reduced impact on the environment and agroforestry;
- Development of domestic energy strategy based on the promotion of renewable energy;
- FLEGT and sustainable management of forests and protected areas;
- Reforestation of savannas areas and enhancement of carbon stocks in degraded forests;
- Planning and land tenure security; and
- National planning and structural reforms for the transition to a green economy.

These strategic options (temporary) achieve the objectives of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, additional carbon sequestration, improving living conditions of rural populations and ecosystem restoration.

They provide the basis for an exercise in technical analysis and multi-stakeholder consultations to arrive at a consolidated body of strategic options, which then will build the National REDD + Strategy.

3.4.The REDD situation in Ghana

Ghana has established a designated national authority (DNA) on CDM in its Environmental Protection Agency in September 2005. The authority has contributed to the development of three CDM project ideas notes on the following topics: Rubber culture and carbon sequestration in Ghana; afforestation of catchment areas of Brimsu tank; and reforestation of the catchment area of the Volta. So far, no project has been registered with the CDM. Ghana is one of eight pilot countries FIP and is also a first level FCPF country. Apparently the most advanced African country by far in the REDD process, Ghana has submitted the final version of its Immediate Response Proposal on REDD in December 2010 with a total budget of US \$ 7.3 million. Under the CDM and REDD plans, Ghana indicated that training is a crucial

element for extension workers to facilitate private sector involvement in carbon projects and to conduct advocacy.

In 2009, the Katoomba Group has initiated a scoping exercise of REDD opportunities (ROSE) in Ghana which aimed at identifying major constraints to the development of a REDD project, including those relating to legal, policy and institutional carbon finance. The constraints identified in the report were, among others: poor political motivation deriving from state ownership of natural trees, including trees in cocoa fields, and lack of clarity around the definitions of carbon, property carbon and sharing mechanisms for carbon benefits. (Katoomba Group, Forest Trends, Nature Conservation Research Centre, 2010). The report highlights that most of the causes of deforestation and degradation originate the agricultural sector, hence the need to find solutions based on specific activities of this sector. (The Katoomba Group has participated in the development of the first cocoa carbon project in the world that will be tested in Ghana). To increase community participation, the report proposes that local communities can integrate REDD + approach in their natural resource management plans. Finally, the report warns that national actors must become more aware of the levels of financial gains that could come from REDD approach, while pressing the alarm to say that financial revenues may not be sufficient to offset transaction, implementation and opportunity expenses.

Currently, Ghana is conducting a carbon mapping exercise with support from the Katoomba Group and others, and the government plans to develop a national efficient carbon growth plan.

Ghana endorsed the REDD + as a viable solution to meet the threats posed by deforestation and forest degradation, and also contributes to global efforts to mitigate climate change. Ghana has expressed interest to undertake REDD + in 2007, when the government of Ghana introduced a concept note for the preparation of REDD + (Readiness Plan Idea Note: R-PIN) to the Carbon Forest partnership's Fund (CFPF) of the World Bank.

The R-PIN was subsequently approved in July 2008, opening a preparation process for REDD + on 1 April 2009 with the CFPF for the development of REDD Preparation Paper + for Ghana (Readiness Preparation Proposal: R-PP) through a broad consultative process. The R-PP Ghana was evaluated and approved by the participants to the Committee (PC) of the FCPF FP5 Gabon, in accordance with Resolution PC / 5/2010/3 March 2010. Accordingly, the

Government of Ghana signed the grant Agreement preparation of \$ 3.4 million with the CFPF in 2011 to support the implementation of R-PP.

The R-PP Ghana presents a phased approach to REDD +, with the development of a REDD + strategy, including the technical, political, legal, management, and monitoring necessary for full participation in the development mechanism of REDD + in accordance with the Evaluation Framework of the FCPF readiness (see annex).

With support from the CFPF and other development partners, Ghana has successfully completed REDD + first phase of in November 2014. Significant progress has been made in developing an institutional framework for implementation REDD + and concerted efforts were made to sensitize and strengthen the technical capacities of key stakeholders including local communities, NGOs and government agencies on the REDD +.

Ghana has developed a REDD + strategy and its related instruments which include: (i) a grievance mechanism (GRM) (ii) the strategic and social Environmental Assessment (SESA) / Environmental and Social Management (CGES) / Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF); (iii) a benefit sharing mechanism and a guide and operational standards for REDD + programs at national and subnational level.

In addition, standard operating procedures have been developed to guide Ghana to the operationalization of an MRV system for the monitoring of forests and for the development of reference scenarios for the implementation of REDD +.

Finally, during the first phase of REDD +, Ghana has developed and submitted a concept note of an emissions reduction program (Emission Reduction Program Idea Note: ER-PIN) to the Carbon Fund of the World Bank. In accordance with the REDD + Strategic Interventions in Ghana, the program targets ER cocoa and forest mosaics of the High Forest Zone, with a vision to reduce carbon emissions caused by cocoa agricultural practices and other agricultural factors while improving the productivity of farmers and promote multiparty approach, public-private, collaborative effort throughout the program area. The ER-PIN has been accepted by the Carbon Fund and Ghana was to develop an Emission Reduction Program document (Emission Reduction Program Document: ER-P), which, if implemented successfully, would allow Ghana to access payments, based on the performance of REDD + by the World Bank Carbon Fund of the.

Despite these achievements, the first phase of REDD + was characterized by gaps and challenges that include: (i) Many developed frameworks, including the MRV system, the

ESAS and the benefit-sharing mechanism which needed to be rigorously tested in the field; (ii) The lack of a system for monitoring REDD + co-benefits and guarantee issues - This activity was not included in Ghana's R-PP and therefore neither budgeted nor implemented. However, a roadmap was developed in the REDD + context to guide the development of a system to monitor both the benefits related or not, to carbon during the implementation of REDD +; and (iii) Challenges of spatial planning in Ghana which presents difficulties in mapping and monitoring forests; (iv) Conflict Management Strategies.

Because of these challenges and gaps, Ghana has applied for the FCPF in May 2014 to seek additional funds for the completion of the REDD + preparation process. The request was approved and therefore an allocation of US \$ 5.2 million was allocated to Ghana to address the identified gaps and also for the development of the ER program document. The activities for the second phase of REDD + preparation will be undertaken from 2015 to 2017. It is also estimated that Ghana will submit the document to the ER-P Carbon Fund of the World Bank during the first quarter 2016.

In 2012, Ghana has been selected as pilot countries under the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), with the submission of its forest investment plan (FIP). The FIP addresses the institutional and political context for the implementation of REDD + as well as piloting and testing REDD + activities in the Brong-Ahafo and Western Region of Ghana.

3.5.The REDD situation in Liberia:

In September 2007, the Liberian government set up a working group on forest carbon at national level. The group's work was to document the carbon finance potential and lay the foundation for pilot projects incorporating the objectives of community development and those of biodiversity conservation. In 2009, a team of International Conservation economists conducted a study entitled "Economic Analysis of a Low Carbon Economy for Liberia" (Lawrence et al, 2009), and concluded that the carbon market could generate revenues of the order of US \$ 55 million annually, if we consider a price of \$ 5 per ton, and much more if carbon credits prices continue to surge.

The report states that "the production of carbon credits can create gain opportunities for entrepreneurs and would be a source of employment in the environmental sector. The country being well endowed with forest resources in the West African region, Liberia has a chance to become a regional market leader in this sector. But for this, efforts are still needed; we must

monitor lands to prevent illegal logging and protect from bushfires. Agriculture must be more productive; goods and services such as inorganic and organic fertilizers, irrigation and classification services will be sold, often on site. Data should be collected and new payment methods developed ... Once Liberians have acquired the necessary expertise in these areas, they can apply it in other countries gradually, as the industry Carbon develops ".

The obstacles to overcome in order to penetrate the carbon market, as outlined by the report, are among others things, a clearer definition of property rights and the need for a flexible political and national legal framework. The report says that as far as funding mechanisms are based on performance, the behavior of communities in terms of reduced deforestation and increased forest regeneration will be crucial for determining the level of income received.

The report was presented at a government workshop in November 2009 and the analysis is currently under review for detailed discussions with departments and agencies taken individually. Upon approval of the plan, the NGO Conservation International reports that Liberia will join countries like Guyana and Suriname as an emerging carbon market pioneers. So far, several parties expressed interest in the carbon credit markets of Liberia, including the Prince's Rainforest Trust (a fund set up by the Prince of Wales). In 2010, Liberia was almost a victim of an alleged scam in the field of forest carbon in the voluntary market involving the Carbon Harvesting Corporation based in the United Kingdom. The project proposed unrealistic carbon goals, exposing the Liberian government in a liability of \$ 2 billion US. An online news reports that "the unregulated nature of the emerging carbon market - where landowners are paid to conserve and sustainably manage the forests - has the effect of a spark among environmental and social advocacy groups regarding land grabbing and deceits.

Liberia is a first level country in the CFPF and submitted the fifth stream of his immediate intervention proposal in January 2011 with a budget of 5.074 million dollars. He joined the UNREDD program in 2014 and conducted studies on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT).

Liberia also has a CDM project approved on waste management: "Whein Town Landfill Gas Recovery Project" (Project on gas recovery from landfill in the city of Whein).

3.6. The REDD situation in Mali:

The work of setting up a Malian Carbon Fund started since 2007 in this country with low forest cover, to support the Malian actors in selling carbon credits to finance projects. The fund is supposed to make Malian carbon credits more attractive to investors by consolidating these credits in a diversified portfolio. The Malian Carbon Fund should take into account activities related to renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as afforestation and reforestation. It will be mainly fueled by international and national public funds, but contributions will be mobilized from the private sector (Kanouté, 2010).

At present, a carbon project entitled "Acacia Plantation Project Senegal " is funded by the Bio-Carbon Fund in Mali; This project involves the reforestation of 6000 hectares between 2006 -2011. A Malian agribusiness called Déguessi Group is the initiator of this project and has signed agreements with local communities for the commercialization of emission reductions produced on their land. The company will develop and manage profitable and modern incubators, contribute to the training of farmers and provide assistance in planting trees, plantation maintenance and harvesting of gum arabic. The Déguessi Group will purchase gum arabic from participating farmers and share the revenue of carbon sales credits with them. The project is expected to sequester approximately 300,000 tons of CO₂ by 2017 and 800 000 tons by 2035. Technical support is provided by the International Centre for Agro-Forestry Research and ICRISAT. Another carbon project "K-TGAL - Kyoto: Think Global, Act Local" was funded by the Netherlands in Mali, as well as Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. In Mali, the project focuses on REDD activities in 11 villages in the Koulikoro region and is expected to sequester about 2.5 tons of carbon per hectare each year. 226 hectares, annual revenues of emission reductions are estimated at US \$ 12,000 (Kanouté, 2010).

Mali has a multinational scale project registered in the area of hydropower under the CDM - this is the Regional Hydroelectric Project in Felou covering Mali, Senegal and Mauritania. The World Agroforestry Centre (2009) reports that Mali has five bio-carbon projects.

3.7. The REDD situation in Nigeria:

Progress made:

In 2013-2014, the UN-REDD Nigerian National Program (NP) recorded a significant delay in the implementation and progressed unevenly, some products being well advanced while others are lagging behind. overall, Nigeria REDD + planning preparations has made significant progress. The national report of the REDD + Planning Preparation has been

formulated and validated by stakeholders and reviewed and confirmed by the CFPF of the World Bank, so that \$ 3.8 million US-D were assigned to Nigeria for its REDD +. This funding complements the support of the UN-REDD PN and allows the implementation of REDD + in two new states. The REDD + team in Cross River State (60% of the country's forests) is in place and fully operational and has begun to develop dialogues on REDD +, in particular on the involvement of stakeholders and governance. The capacity for forest monitoring and MRV have been significantly expanded in 2014. A group of 49 experts was formed, and another seminar was held successfully on the national carbon forest inventory and the Allometric equations, in which 25 people participated actively. The spatially explicit study of the drivers of deforestation has been completed in the State of Cross River; with the preliminary study on the design of a carbon forest inventory, it will inform the development of the reference level of forests (NRF) for the state and serve as a model for other states in Nigeria.

A new diplomatic initiative on REDD + and climate, designed in 2013, was developed in Nigeria in 2014. It will combine the products related to advocacy, institutional strengthening and policy development in order to strengthen synergies and contribute to effectively and promptly obtain assigned results to the PN (institutional and technical capacity at the national level). A consultation workshop helped to guide the work of survey and assessment of the multiple benefits of REDD + and spatial planning in support of REDD + projects in Cross River state. A meeting was also Subsequently held in Calabar from 3 to 12 November, 2014; this was to refine the identification of REDD + priority benefits, for the purposes of planning for land use, and in order to build the capacity of relevant staff and stakeholders to guide the work on warranties, multiple benefits and spatial planning. The working group on the green economy in Cross River state was established in December 2014. The drafting of the mandate soon to be completed: he shall be responsible to lead the transition to the green economy by taking advantage of the planned work on the assessment of forests role in the state of the economy and the identification of private sector's investment. The Cross River State has also started internal preparations to develop REDD + strategy in 2015, adopting a multisectoral approach. A REDD + stakeholder forum in Cross River State has also been initiated and serve as a coordination space among stakeholders for the development of strategies and implementation for REDD + activities. The stakeholder forum began by validating the first version of Nigeria's plan for community-based REDD +.

Risks, issues and responses:

The PN suffered a major delay in the performance of products and financing, which is explained by several internal and external reasons: change in government, delays in recruitment of an international adviser, the need to simplify Program design to conform to the UNFCCC recommendations for REDD +. Several measures were taken in 2014 to accelerate the implementation of the PN. The partially completed, recruitment of personnel in key positions of the program at national and international levels, was an important step. A new international advisor will accompany the PN and support its implementation. During the implementation, it became clear that the design of PN had been too ambitious, with too many products (14). The country requested an extension without charge in early 2015, after which the UN-REDD and the Government will jointly review progress to modify the design and make the institutional and operational adjustments necessary to facilitate the implementation and promoting the achievement of good effects.

Perspectives:

Some activities undertaken in 2014 were suitable for further work in 2015. This is notably the case of spatially explicit study on the drivers of deforestation in Cross River State, which analyzed satellite images on three periods (2000, 2007 and 2014). The activity data were obtained on the status of land use / land cover across the state (LULC ??).

A preliminary study on the design of a carbon forest inventory has also led to the production of emission factors for the conditions of forests. Using data from these studies, the program is working on the development of NR. The fields of work on spatial identification of multiple benefits of REDD + are underway to supply the REDD + strategy of Cross River State and warranty information related thereto. They will also go in the direction of work for the transition to green economy, inseparable to REDD +, taking into account the rapid social, economic and political evolution. It is expected that the first version of the REDD + strategy of Cross River State occurred in 2015, taking advantage of the currently conducted analysis and multipartite and cross-sectoral dialogue on the drivers of deforestation. At the same time, funding for CFPF will allow the government to deploy REDD + at the national level in two new states, making REDD + a truly national purpose. Local NGOs are campaigning against Nigeria's participation in REDD process for fear that this process becomes a means of land grabbing by large corporations, and that the poor who depend only Nigerian forests are forced

to abandon their land, which denies them access to forests. They feel that the communities, dependent on forest resources, have not been consulted and taken into account by the government in the REDD negotiation process.

Table 6 : Figure of the UN-REDD +National Program

Indicator	2013	2014
Number of organizations of the civil society highly active on different aspects of the program.	12	15
Number of people trained on REDD + and climate change.	Males: 120 Females: 70	Males: 68 Females: 30
Number of people trained on forest monitoring and MRV.	-	85
Number of national consultation workshops organized	5	3

Source: ONU-REDD Report 2014

Lessons learned:

Nigeria has adopted a dual approach to REDD +, in promoting REDD + in a particular State (Cross River State) which may draw others in a political and institutional framework established by the federal government. This model seems attractive to many countries - especially if they are composed of vast territories or if REDD + raises complex issues. Nigeria could thus offer valuable lessons on how to lead a double approach to REDD +, under the impetus of a particular constituency.

One of the important achievements in this program was the creation of a laboratory of remote sensing and GIS in Forestry Commission of Cross River State, in Calabar to meet the information need on forests and their dynamics.

It should be noted also that Nigeria has five CDM projects in the sectors of gas and energy.

3.8. The REDD situation in Sierra Leone:

In 2006, Sierra Leone has ratified the Kyoto Protocol. Since then, several steps have been taken to develop a national approach to the fight against climate change, where forestry is key. For example, in 2007 a national action plan on adaptation (NAPA) has been developed,

and in 2012 a National Secretariat for Climate Change (NSCC) was created. NSCC has been responsible for developing a policy on climate change, and the establishment of regulatory frameworks and effective procedures to support future implementation of Kyoto's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and REDD + projects. The promotion of CDM and REDD + is also included in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP 2009-2012) - "Agenda for Change" - that identifies the carbon markets as a sustainable financing mechanisms to support conservation and development of the forest sector, including local communities. Although concepts such as REDD + and carbon are not yet defined in the national legal framework, a legal review, among others, for the 1988 Forest Act is underway.

In 2011, a private company presented the government of Sierra Leone with the Carbon Forest Partnership Fund (CFPF) to develop a preparation document on REDD+ (R-PP), which proposed the conclusion of a convention of license of approximately 488 000 ha of land, for forest reserves and national parks with the corporation. This has been proposed without consultation or consent of traditional landowners and other stakeholders and proved, shortly after, as a major scam for carbon trading. It was a difficult start for REDD + in Sierra Leone, but since then the national process was taken with the support of the European Union.

The EU delegation in Sierra Leone has invested in a REDD + Capacity Building project in Sierra Leone, to counter the action of predators and prevent this to take root as it was the first experience with the R-PP. This project is part of the Global Alliance program to fight against Climate Change and will pilot REDD + at national level and strengthen the capacity of the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) to implement REDD +. The Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) is responsible for the management and coordination of national REDD + EU funded project "Strengthening capacities of REDD + in Sierra Leone. "to prepare Sierra Leone for REDD +, the Global Alliance against Climate Change and FSF Ireland funded a capacity building project with the goal to generate the basic conditions, experience and institutional, social and technical capacity to promote good forest governance in Sierra Leone. This starts with the database production on forest resources and the dynamics of deforestation, institution building, adapting policies and regulatory framework, establishment of mechanisms for the involvement of stakeholders, etc... The project will strengthen the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security to prepare the country for REDD + and promote low-carbon initiatives. This project started since 2013 and should be completed in 2016. The main expected results are:

- The Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security is capacitated in terms of institutional structure, policy framework technical capacity, enforcement capacity of the law and logistical support;
- REDD + basic preparation is completed, namely the achievement of a forest inventory and carbon; the development of a system for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) for REDD +; the completion of an evaluation of the opportunity cost for the conversion of forest areas; and the provision of inputs in the definition of a national REDD + policy;
- The level of awareness on climate change and its links to environmental degradation and development, particularly children and women, increases significantly;
- The economy and the dynamics of production and consumption of charcoal are better understood. A strategy for sustainable charcoal pilot production is defined;
- A map of solar energy potential is produced.

At sub-national level, "Gola Rainforest REDD + project" is another project implemented by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the MAFFS Forestry Division and the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL). This is the first REDD + pilot project in the country and it must inform on the development process and implementation of national REDD + Plan and should, in so doing, allow the standards validation for Climate and Biodiversity (CCB), standards and certified carbon (Verified Carbon Standard: VCS) (2013). Feasibility studies for REDD + have also been developed for the environmental and social management project Bumbuna Hydroelectric (BHESM) located in the Northern Province. The Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAP-NAP) in the Western Region is currently developing a draft document (Project Design Document: PDD) for VCS.

In 2010, the WAPFOR has been suggested as a potential site for REDD + in national REDD + strategy. It was evaluated as a large and almost untouched forest, greatly threatened by deforestation from urban expansion. Therefore, the challenges for its management were deemed important enough, so that the potential of carbon offsetting has been ranked moderately. The WAPFOR also features prominently in a project proposal for REDD preparation (R-PP) developed by a project developer. Depending on the version in March 2011, about 9,000 ha of WAPFOR are assigned to REDD +.

In the National Strategy for Climate Change Mitigation for Sierra Leone, the implementation of REDD + is envisaged through three main strategic objectives:

- Governmental national institutions are engaged in the preparation of a national institutional and legal framework for REDD and other environmental and social measures;
- an institutional and legal environment at national level is adapted to manage REDD at the national level and other initiatives;
- At least three pilot integrated projects REDD / PES are developed throughout Sierra Leone for learning.

3.9.The REDD situation in Togo:

Togo has accepted the REDD + as a strategic option for sustainable management of forests and contribution to the global fight against climate change.

Indeed, aware of the fact that Togo is a low forest covered country (6.8% of forest coverage rate in 2010) and unfortunately has a high rate of relative losses of forest area in the world (5.1% between 2000 and 2010), the government has integrated REDD + in its national development plan to allow the forest and trees outside the forest to continue to play a very important socio-economic and ecological role. This integration was preceded by adhesion of Togo to the REDD + Partnership in 2010 in Oslo, Norway at a conference on climate and forests and has engaged with 57 other countries present at the conference to work for rehabilitation and protection of forests.

Also, after the accession of Togo to the REDD + Partnership, the ministry of environment and forest resources mobilized all key players to develop the R-PP REDD-Togo document (measures proposed for the condition of REDD + preparation). The document, developed with funding from the Partnership Fund for Forest Carbon (CFPF) has four main results:

- a functioning institutional framework and qualified national expertise was developed for driving the REDD + process;
- reliable studies are conducted and quality reports are produced on the national baseline of forests;
- a REDD + strategy is validated in a concerted way with all relevant stakeholders;

- an effective system of monitoring and evaluation of forest resources changes at national level is implemented.

The RPP-REDD Togo finalized and submitted to the CFPF in November 2013 was accepted in December 2013. Since 12 February 2015, the program "Support for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD +) and rehabilitation forests in Togo - ProREDD "funded by the German Cooperation (GIZ-Togo), was officially launched, marking the actual start. This is one of the key actions of the Program Support REDD + and ProREDD designed by Togo-Germany cooperation in July 2014 for an implementation period of 5 years.

Already, a preliminary analytical study on the state of forests and functions as the basis of a national inventory of forest resources and land use, has been successfully completed with the support of German Technical Cooperation (GIZ).

As noted above, Togo declared the REDD + as a strategic option for sustainable forest management. Various measures have been taken in this direction by the Togolese government including the adoption of a forest declaration in 2010, the national forest policy, the updating of the National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP), defining a vision long term to carry, from 7% to 30%, the national forest coverage rate in 2050. Through these documents, the government is committed to implement actions to reduce human pressure on forest resources, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, management of vegetation fires, conservation of existing forests and reforestation. Results obtained in the past five years are, among others, development of more than 2955 hectares of forest, protection of over 20,771.52 ha of forest, the requalification of more than 55,198 hectares of protected areas, delimitation consensual of 229,848 hectares and demarcation of 185 km for protected areas (Balame and Alédjo, Fazao-Oti-Keran and Malfakassa), reforestation of over 10,648.74 hectares, producing more than 4,160,011 plants, linear plantations of 58.3 km and maintenance of over 6,196.76 hectares of forest.

It is important to note that many national development planning documents have integrated REDD + as a tool for sustainable development.

- **SCAPE:**

SCAPE has identified as, among other strategic measures for environmental field and sustainable management of natural resources of its axis 5 regarding the "promotion of participatory development, balanced and sustainable the 'adoption and implementation of a REDD + and FLEGT action plan.

- **SNDD:**

NSDS has identified the promotion of Togo's participation in the global effort to decrease global warming through the development and implementation of a REDD + strategy as one of the main measures against climate change.

- **PNIERN:**

The fourth PNIERN subprogram relates to "Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD +)." This sub-program aims at restoring forests to reach a coverage rate of 30% of the land area by 40 years and to sustainably improve the living environment of the Togolese population.

This is by 2015 to establish an operational plan for forestry activities in a spirit of sustainable development to enable carrying out the forest coverage rate of the country at 7 and 9%. The priorities identified are:

- development of a national REDD + strategy;
- safeguarding existing plant formations nationwide;
- extension of the national forest cover;
- technical capacity building and equipment (equipment for a true forestry development) actors.

The program "Support for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD +) and forest rehabilitation in Togo - ProREDD" mentioned in the previous section is part of the implementation of PNIERN. The program covers forest inventory and CO2 throughout the national territory

The other ECOWAS countries have not yet developed a REDD + strategy. Without registering a single strategic framework for REDD +, lots of initiatives and projects implemented contribute to sustainable management of forest resources and sanitation of the

institutional environment for managing forest resources. Therefore, they may be capitalized as part of a REDD + strategy and thus constitute a shortcut and money and time saving.

In Guinea, emissions reduction activities from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD +) are in their early stages since the efforts to date are exploratory in nature.

As part of a study entitled "Exploring the potential of carbon sequestration in the forest reserves of the Republic of Guinea", Winrock International, on the basis of a field visit made in April-May 2004, an analysis of satellite imagery (Landsat at 30 m resolution), the information on land use and forest inventory provided by the Expanded Project on natural Resource Management (PEGRN) and its partners, has established the first approximations of net income carbon (prevention of emissions and / or sequestration) of various project activities that could be implemented in ten (10) reserved forests of Guinea.

The country would have a significant potential for REDD + given the available forest resources and degradation trends due to several factors (agricultural clearing, bush fires, abuse, etc ...).

In Niger, like many other countries, REDD + initiatives are still under construction. Indeed, the country has not yet engaged in the REDD + process. However, it should be noted that even before the advent of REDD +, Niger has taken initiatives to rehabilitate and protect forest resources, improve management, thus contributing to the global fight against climate change. This is in particular:

- The fight against bush fires;
- The management of classified forests and protected areas;
- The development of township and village forests;
- The popularization of alternative energy sources to wood and techniques and technologies, saving wood and charcoal fires;
- The implementation of agro-forestry measures (additional agro-forestry plantations, assisted natural regeneration);
- Community reforestation;
- Etc

In this context, the Niger recently adopted a Strategic Framework for Sustainable Land Management (CS / TDM) and its 2015-2029 action plan which schedules several activities within the REDD + scope.

The CS / TDM, costing valued at 1,420,87 billion FCFA, provides for the realization of the following actions over the period 2015-2029:

- 1.1 million hectares of Assisted Natural Regeneration to strengthen already achieved 5 million hectares;
- 1.1 million hectares of plantations in bulk and 145 000 km of linear plantings as windbreaks, living fences and planting alignment;
- The development of 375,000 hectares of forests in addition to already developed areas;
- The opening of 600,000 km of bands firebreaks as part of the fight against bush fires.

It should also be noted that since 2002, Niger has been implementing on its own State resources the Gommier Program as part of the relaunch of the gum arabic sector. This program is to award grants to communities for the realization of Acacia Senegal plantations. In the same vein, the government launched in 2013 an ambitious community reforestation program called " Program Un Village Un Bois". This is a program that aims at addressing the problem of forest decline, particularly through large community operations plantations and support for Assisted Natural Regeneration, under the auspices of municipalities

without having a national REDD + strategy, Senegal has revised its forestry policy by the year 2025 and the contribution to limiting deforestation and forest degradation plays an important role. A revision of the Forest Code is under construction and the country has developed projects and participatory forest management initiative to develop:

- Technical itineraries for the inventory of forests;
- The consultation of stakeholders for sharing of benefits arising from forest resources valorization;
- The organization of forestry production based on forest management decentralization involving local forests populations.

Most recently the PROGEDE2 made a national forest inventory and an evaluation inventory of forest carbon stocks.

This is an important legacy that the country can develop in the context of REDD +.

In Cabo Verde the initiative for REDD + is still low but present, the activities implemented in the forestry sector are funded exclusively by the state. In recent years a gradual reduction of investment in forestry activities was noted. That is why there is need for a strategy to mobilize resources for this purpose, taking advantage of existing innovative financing mechanisms at national and international level focused for long-term management and adaptation to climate change. REDD + can thus be considered for this purpose. The realization of the national forest inventory which is in its completion phase will allow an estimation of forest resources potential.

The forest resources management in the REDD + context requires the mobilization of financial resources, technology and appropriate human resources. To face these challenges, ECOWAS countries would benefit from pooling resources into a cohesive collaboration.

4. KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS:

4.1. REDD+: an opportunity for the Sudano-Sahelian countries:

As a reminder, the MDP is governed by general principles that apply to all emission reduction projects from "sources" of GHG or carbon sequestration absorbed by "sinks". The Marrakech compromise specifies that all fossil fuel consumption reduction projects and emission reduction of GHGs are eligible when project boundaries are well defined, reference scenarios are strong, measures stringent emissions are possible and periodic inspections can be assured in the future. Conversely, as long as there are no reliable and consistent methodologies with the rigor and precision of methodologies for "sources" projects, carbon sequestration projects in (forest, agricultural, pastoral) ecosystems are not eligible, except for afforestation and reforestation projects.

That is why, after analysis REDD + offers Sudano-Sahelian countries important opportunities such as the ability to:

- promote activities not included in the Kyoto Protocol as deferred grazing, local agreements, forest management, agroforestry systems including soil carbon, etc. Indeed, many initiatives and projects are being developed in this area by the ECOWAS region;
- to acquire a long-term funding for forest resource management and conservation activities to address the constraints that generates bilateral or multilateral financing that is often part of a short or medium term, while the budgets of countries fail to finance the management of forest resources which often do not have a good place in the hierarchy of priority countries,
- to exchange information on the description and mastering the causes of deforestation and forest degradation as well as the measurement of indicators of forest change:
- Developing a Research organized and supported by the international community (development partners, regional organizations, private sector etc.);
- Create a fruitful dialogue around the management of forest resources:
- The existence of framework and bilateral and multilateral institutions to support initiatives to prepare and implement a REDD + strategy at national and local level (UN-REDD, FCPF, FIP etc.);

- Form a coherent framework for collaborative management of forest resources to measure performance and compare experiences.

4.2.Challenges and Constraints:

The challenges and constraints related to REDD + are:

- **Creating a collective dynamic around the REDD+:** behavior and perspectives change of primary stakeholders (farmers, herders, households, etc.), the commitment of local decision-makers (local elected officials and NGOs) and state are imperatives to REDD + success. And on this point, REDD + initiative should be integrated into the spatial planning guidelines. Overall, the changes in behavior and perspectives will result in better management of non-permanence factors: forest fires, overgrazing, drought, agricultural expansion and urban areas, illegal logging, etc. This challenge is all the more important that it involves a change in behavior of actors (favoring dialogue and sharing of information), in planning methodology, in assessment, in development and use of forest resources and land.
- **The adoption of a credible method to establish the baseline of deforestation and forest degradation:** in the absence of a permanent monitoring system of woody formations, this question will be the subject of a national or sub-regional consensus. Generally, there are data on deforestation, but to identify data degradation we will certainly need to initiate research protocols in many African countries. Already, the community countries must adopt a forest definition which is a reference to appreciate the results of the collective efforts to reduce deforestation. While this choice may be country-specific, it seems we need, at least, a minimum of consensus on the definition criteria of the forest.

Considering the factors of non-permanence, it is more realistic for countries to adopt a definition of forests which is oriented towards the lower limits of the selected criteria:

- $0,05 \text{ ha} \leq \text{minimal Surface} \leq 1 \text{ ha}$;
- $10\% \leq \text{tree cover} \leq 30 \%$;
- $2\text{m} \leq \text{Mature Height} \leq 5 \text{ m}$.

But we must recognize that if the choice of lower limits increases the forest potential, it requires as part of the measurement of emission reductions and monitoring, sharper

and more tedious work. After having chosen a definition, one can evaluate the chances of REDD + success in each ecoregion of the country given its biological potential and the expected impact of major state policy decisions (dam, road infrastructure, urbanization, etc.).

Finally, the carbon balance between the baseline scenario (evolution of deforestation and ecosystems degradation dynamic that would be imposed in the credit "carbon") absence and the scenario induced by the "REDD +" implementation policies, which determine the amount of emission reduction certificates or financially valuable CO2 sequestration.

To establish the baseline scenario, the most widely used methodology is the assessment of the carbon balance corresponding to a historical period that precedes the start of the REDD + process. This historical assessment is then extended to a future period corresponding to the duration of the REDD + process. This projection merely duplicates the past dynamics or a finer analysis that takes into account the most likely prospective scenarios

Deforestation (deforested areas per year)

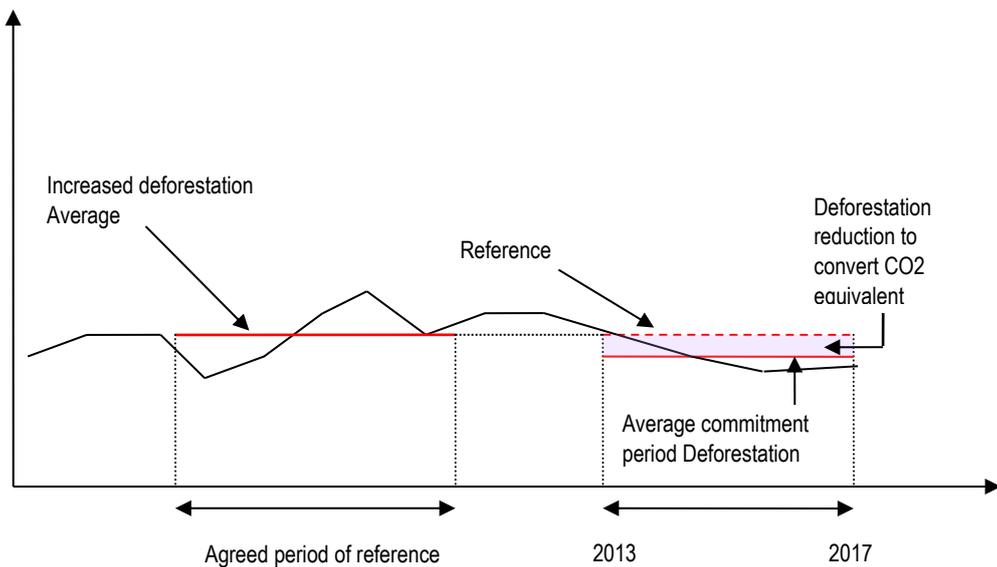


Figure 1 : Diagram of compensation for reducing deforestation over a past reference period.

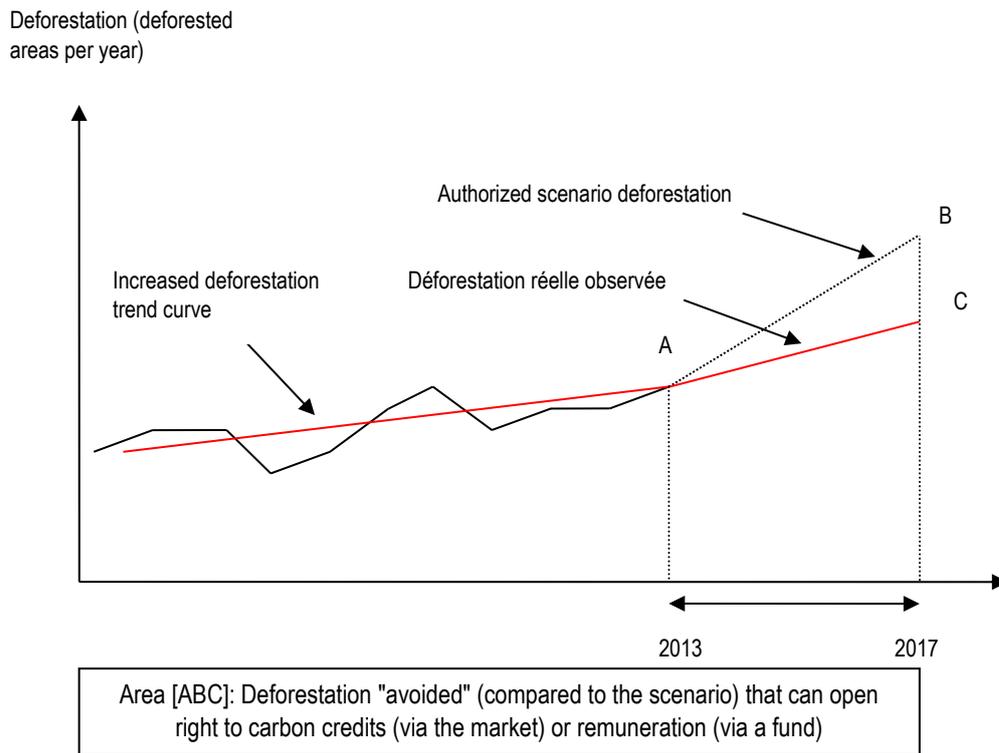


Figure 2 : compensation Diagram of avoided deforestation with reference scenario incorporating an "adjustment factor" to take into account the development needs

In addition, reference levels must have national coverage, but they may be composed of a number of sub-national reference levels. For example, there is no reason to approach ecological geographical area, by county, by land, by forest classified or surrounding villages, etc.

- The sale and the fair distribution of carbon credits:** In REDD + area, the actors do not contribute, with the same effort, to the generation of carbon credits. Therefore, a fair distribution of carbon funds remains imperative for a success and continuity of the REDD + program. How to estimate the specific contributions of groups of actors and how to motivate people later? These are all relevant issues to resolve.

5. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY REDD + IN THE ECOWAS REGION:

The REDD + initiative is based on an inclusive, multi-sectoral, integrating national and local levels. Thus, REDD + inevitably follows political and cultural requirements. ECOWAS brings together fifteen countries that do not have the same level of involvement, consideration and implementation of a REDD + strategy. Even if the will exists, more or less, there was a clear difference between states.

REDD + also requires the development of tools, methods and more or less complex methods that require multidisciplinary expertise and a constant. In addition, REDD + being more a continuous process of consultation, engineering and social mediation skills are required to lead the dialogue to reach consensus on the use of land and forests and the benefits which are attached to it for all community components, especially those dependent on forests.

These dynamics are not entirely new in many countries, though their integration into a coherent framework and planned was strengthened with REDD +. Therefore, the overall objective would be to help the ECOWAS space benefit from Emission reductions related to deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable forests management and reinforcement of carbon forest stocks in developing countries (REDD +). This goal will go through support and strengthening ECOWAS member countries to make the most of the REDD + mechanisms. Five strategic areas can be identified:

1. Establishing the profiles of member countries for REDD + preparation:

This is to rank countries of ECOWAS by category depending on the level of support for REDD + in the area of forest management. The classification criteria may be: (i) country of registration in a REDD + initiative (preparation or implementation of an R-PIN or ER or R-PP-P), (ii) the existence of a dynamic management of forest resources promoting REDD + (the inclusion of REDD + in the strategic guidelines for the management of forest resources, review of policies and regulatory frameworks conducive to REDD +, the existence of experience in inventory and resource evaluation, participatory management, consultation and dialogue to the use of forest resources, level of decentralization of resource management etc.); (iii) the extent and scope of the country's forest resources

At this level a summary analysis of the ECOWAS countries can identify three broad categories of countries:

- **Countries in preparation for REDD +:** these are the countries that have prepared, signed or are in the process of implementing an R-PIN, an R-PP or ER-P such as Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Togo.
- **Countries with high potential for REDD + preparation:** These are the countries that are not yet in a preparation process but which have, sometimes separately, developed policies , strategies and approaches that can easily enhance the preparation so as to substantially shorten the preparation process (revision of forest resource, development policies and strategies, availability of data on national forest inventories, decentralizing the management of forest resources and mechanisms to share profits from the management of forest resources , ... etc.). we can put in this batch Benin, Niger, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone.
- **Countries with low potential for REDD + preparation:** these are countries that have a strong forestry potential and can initiate the preparation but have not yet acquired many elements of REDD + strategy in terms of tools and methodology etc. These countries include Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau.

According to the profile of the country, support for REDD + preparation differs and ECOWAS should provide targeted support to specific country needs.

2. The support of countries for the development of REDD +:

This support should be seen in the light of general intervention principles of ECOWAS in particular subsidiarity. This is, according to the inventory to define key points in order to shorten and make effective the preparation process for REDD + preparation Member States.

3. Strengthening REDD + preparation capacity in ECOWAS:

Given the innovative content and more or less complex of REDD + an important capacity building program should be tied for decision makers, technicians, civil society, etc ... to enable a balanced development of the REDD +.

4. The development of REDD + pilot programs:

To give an example, ECOWAS will develop both nationally and at the local level REDD + programs and projects in a few selected countries, for example the three categories announced earlier.

5. Strengthening cooperation with bilateral and multilateral institutions as well as regional organizations for the development of REDD + in the ECOWAS

ECOWAS should establish a frank and mutually satisfactory cooperation between it and the bilateral and multilateral institutions from REDD + to learn from their experience but also find shortcuts to member countries and create an osmosis dynamic and credible synergy to develop REDD + In the region.

6. ACTION PLAN:

No action plan is developed at the regional level. The only sub-regional initiative was identified as part of the Global Climate Change Alliance Project (GCCA) which is a European Union initiative to support countries of the CILSS and ECOWAS space to cope with climate change in order to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is in part 3 of GCCA to "strengthen the capacity of climate negotiations and access to carbon finance mechanisms in West Africa.

Given their commitment to promote programs propelled by their States and strengthen the investment capacity for a green economy, CILSS and ECOWAS have noted: (i) a need to raise significant methodological barriers related to MRV (monitoring, Reporting and Verification) to strengthen capacities of countries of the CILSS-ECOWAS subregion to have access to carbon markets (CDM and voluntary markets) and new flexibility mechanisms being discussed (REDD +, AFOLU, UCATFs. (ii) the need to know the dynamics of carbon stocks in order to certify its stability for negotiation. (iii) the need to collect important data for the calibration of existing models in order to adapt them to the eco-systemic realities of west Africa.

The realization of an Action Plan at the ECOWAS region will necessarily have to support countries in developing their RED + strategy, implement and evaluate this implementation as described below:

Phase 1: Development of a REDD + strategy in which one must know, among others, the main determinants of deforestation and woodcutting; the actors associated with these determinants; the reference situation of deforestation (deforestation forest degradation +); the trend scenario in the absence of action; corrective measures of the trend scenario including patterns of REDD +

Phase 2: Implementation of REDD + strategy, based on (a) grants or other financial resources for capacity building and empowerment of policies and measures, and on (b) payments indexed to reducing emissions verified by indicators.

Phase 3: Continue the implementation of the REDD + strategy in the context of a low-carbon development; payments received in exchange for a reduction and elimination of emissions proven.

To do so, countries have to:

- 1- Analyze the main determinants of deforestation and forest degradation;
- 2- Adopt a definition of forest according to the UNFCCC;
- 3- Identify and validate sites that, objectively, can host the REDD + program;
- 4- Set baseline scenarios for deforestation and forest degradation;
- 5- Setting National forest monitoring mechanisms;
- 6- Define a measurement reporting and verification (MRV) system, in the forest sector;
- 7- Develop REDD + strategy by country.

To facilitate the implementation of these actions, ECOWAS must concentrate its action taking into account the defined strategic lines.

1. The profile establishment of member countries for REDD + Preparation:

The major actions to be implemented are:

- Define the profile of member countries according to level of REDD + preparation;
- Define, share and validate the need for assistance with the level of preparedness of countries with bilateral and multilateral institutions;
- Develop, validate and disseminate guidelines and manuals to facilitate REDD + preparation.

2. The support of countries for the development of REDD +:

Major actions to be developed are:

- The implementation of structural resources (methods, tools, materials etc.) to facilitate the planning of the country strategy of REDD +, the establishment of an MRV system, monitoring of the forest, definition of a reference scenario for carbon forestry, governance, benefit sharing, mechanism between stakeholders etc.;
- Facilitating the country access to bilateral and multilateral financing mechanism set up by the international community by positioning itself as advisory support institution, facilitating and monitoring for the development of REDD + in the ECOWAS;

- The limitation of transaction costs in REDD + by favoring the pooling of resources, and exchanges including methodologies and approaches developed in member countries but also by encouraging the emergence and the involvement of auditors in the region;
- The enrollment and sensitization of stakeholders for the development of REDD + in the ECOWAS (NGOs, civil society, private sector, etc).

3. Capacity building for REDD + in ECOWAS:

The major actions to implement are:

- Define requirements for each category of stakeholders (decision makers, technicians, civil society, private sector, etc.):
- Develop and implement a capacity building program targeted by category of actors.

4. The development of REDD + pilot programs:

The major actions to implement are:

- Identify three countries to be accompanied for the development of a REDD + strategy with the possibility of easy replication on the basis of consensus criteria (level of readiness, resources available etc.);
- Participate in developing strategy process and REDD + projects;
- Monitor and evaluate the strategy and projects.

5. Strengthening cooperation with bilateral and multilateral institutions and regional organizations for the development of REDD + in the ECOWAS:

The major actions to be implemented are:

- Develop regional REDD + platform with UEMOA and CILSS according to the comparative advantages of the institutions;
- Integrate decision-making bodies of bilateral and multilateral institutions in support of REDD + by bringing the credo of consistency, synergy, the capitalization of non-carbon benefits of REDD + in the ECOWAS.

7. FINANCING MECHANISMS

The objectives of the strategy are based on good resource mobilization. The latter will mean that we keep current donors and attract new donors. It will be also necessary to mobilize sources of bilateral, multilateral and regional funding.

The funding mechanism should be based on:

- the adoption of a proactive and flexible approach to resource mobilization;
- an effective and efficient use of funds mobilized;
- resort to a special Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) as the main UN-REDD funding mechanism;
- the ability to streamline and make more effective the access to funding procedures and provide ECOWAS an increased ability to help member countries;
- the need to follow priorities of donors: It is important that the activities of the strategy coincide with donor funding priorities in REDD + and other related fields;
- capacity building to support the activities of member countries to identify and communicate progress: Donors on REDD + want to know that their investments lead to concrete results and contribute to climate change mitigation. It is therefore crucial to enhance the capacity of countries to identify and disseminate the results of their activities through a convincing awareness process.

ECOWAS should discuss with bilateral and multilateral partners to support a funding window closer to the member countries. The most prominent partners are:

Norway, Denmark, Spain, Japan, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, UN REDD, the FCPF Carbon Fund, The Forest Investment Program, Bio-Carbon Fund, The Global Alliance for Climate Change the European Union with whom the CEDEAO already has a project.

Furthermore, ECOWAS countries will, upon own funding, help finance the four-year action plan. In addition, they can have access to the Green Climate Fund, which is expected to grow in importance in the future.

The methodology for the design of REDD + from ECOWAS funding strategy will take into account the international, national, decentralized, cross-sectoral and climate change. This approach will include:

- The evaluation and quantification of priority needs for REDD + preparation (capacity building, technology, research and training, etc.). At this level ECOWAS can carry an investment program for the actions to be considered as most optimal at regional level with a variation at country level for better harmonization. Mapping of forest stands (satellite image), assessment and inventory of forests in the region (harmonization of methodologies, forest setting assistance etc.), development of model by country but not by group of countries according to the factors identified, etc.;
- The identification, organization of access and mobilization of bilateral and multilateral international financial mechanisms;
- contribution of existing or future national funds (ecological taxation, Environment Fund, the Fund on Climate Change, etc.);
- Promoting public-private partnerships and innovative financing will be encouraged to mobilize resources to cope with CC

8. INSTITUTIONNEL ARRANGEMENT:

Each ECOWAS country has appointed an institution in charge of monitoring the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). However, for the transversal dimension of this issue, one structure can not effectively manage all concerns related to REDD +. Thus the initiatives should be taken and implemented in the framework of a synergy of action promoting collaboration among all stakeholders, under the supervision a controlling structure, which could be an ad-hoc committee.

At regional level, ECREEE should play a central role by acting as a harmonized structure of country interventions and the other as a strategic planning framework. Thus, regional programs could be developed at this level with "country projects" well adapted to local realities.

CONCLUSION:

The climate negotiations are still not satisfied with the Sudano-Sahelian countries in light of carbon funds collected through the CDM while with the island countries, the Sudano-Sahelian countries are highly affected by climate change.

The REDD + approach offers real opportunities in the sense that, the activities traditionally carried, could be valued in this context (forest management, deferred grazing, reforestation, agroforestry etc.) The REDD + approach, stimulates much enthusiasm compared to the Clean Development Mechanism but the methods it implies, is nonetheless demanding as a measurement system, reporting and verification of emission reduction, a system of monitoring and follow up of forests, a benefit-sharing mechanism between the various stakeholders especially for forest-dependent people, a system of guarantees etc., are all components to be mastered and documented to certify carbon credits from this mechanism. That is why the international community through bilateral and multilateral cooperation is setting up a fund to support the REDD+ Preparation for developing countries (UN REDD, the FCPF Carbon Fund, the Forest Investment Program, SMAC etc.). The African countries are still, very marginally benefiting to these funds. At the ECOWAS region, some countries are listed on these funds to prepare the REDD +, either by subscription or the implementation of an R-PIN, an R-PP or ER-P (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Togo). Some countries, without benefited from these funds, have initiated interesting processes that can be capitalized as part of REDD+ Preparation (review of forest resource development policies and strategies, availability of data on national forest inventories, decentralization management of forest resources and mechanisms for sharing benefits from the forest resource management, etc.). You can put in this lot Benin, Niger, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Other countries such as Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau have a strong forestry potential and can initiate the preparation but have not yet acquired many REDD + elements strategy in terms of tools and methodology etc. This is also the case of Cape Verde.

REDD + is therefore an opportunity for ECOWAS countries but they face the challenges of an institutional, technical and socio-economic requirements related to the certification of carbon credits. To accompany them, ECOWAS must define a strategy structured around the following points, among others:

- The establishment of profiles of member countries for REDD+ Preparation:
- The support of countries for the development of REDD +:

- Capacity building in REDD + in the ECOWAS region:
- The development of REDD + pilot programs:
- Strengthening cooperation with bilateral and multilateral institutions and regional organizations for the development of REDD + in the ECOWAS.

These axes must be supported by major activity implemented through a funding strategy based on the creation of a REDD + funds, complementary and harmonized with existing funds. The methodology for the design of REDD + from ECOWAS funding strategy will take into account the international, national, decentralized, cross-sectoral and climate change. This fund must be playing a bridging role on proximity and specificity of member countries and should favor investments that can benefit to all countries to better prepare of REDD

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ANNEX:

Table 1 : Components, Sub-components and deliverables of the FCPF REDD+ Readiness Assessment Framework

Component	Sub-component	Deliverables
1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Manage implementation of REDD+ funding; b. Co-ordinate REDD+ activities; c. Integrate REDD+ in broader national or sector strategies; d. Manage stakeholder inquiries, complaints and grievances e. Organize information sharing and stakeholder consultation and participation.
	1b. Consultation, Participation and Outreach	Effective consultations with key stakeholders to ensure participation and to enhance transparency and accountability of decision making
2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Undertake research and analytical studies to build comprehensive understanding on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as well as gaps in policies, law and forest governance.
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Design a strategy which fits REDD+ into the country's national development framework and path.
	2c. Implementation Framework	Defines institutional, economic, legal and governance arrangements necessary to implement REDD+ strategy options.
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	To design a Social and Environmental Strategic Assessment (SESA)/ Environmental and Social Management Framework to create a sustainable institutional structure that ensures effective management of social and environmental issues that emanate from REDD+ implementation.
3. Reference Emissions Level	REL/ RL	Determination of the baseline from which emissions reductions from REDD+ activities can be estimated

Component	Sub-component	Deliverables
(REL)/ Reference Level (RL)		
4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	Generation of information that allows comparison of changes in forest area and carbon content relative to the baseline estimates used for the REL/ RL.
	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance and Safeguards	Development of a system for tracking and monitoring non-carbon benefits from REDD+ implementation.