



# REDD+



## ECOWAS Sustainable Biomass Actions through REDD+ Activities

### BACKGROUND

The ECOWAS region is characterized by significant deforestation and natural resources degradation which has a high negative impact on human development and communities' well-being. The total land area under forest in West Africa was depleted from 53.4 Mio ha to 42.38 Mio ha between 1990 and 2005 (FAO, 2006). Among the reasons assigned to this characteristic is the exploitation of wood resources for domestic energy.

About 80% of the population in West Africa depends on traditional biomass to meet their domestic energy needs. This situation does not seem to be abated in the immediate future despite efforts on clean cooking initiatives. The need to ensure sustainable biomass supply is paramount.

### SUPPORTED BY



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## OBJECTIVES

The objective of the REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) activities is to contribute to sensitization and capacity enhancement on:

- Sustainable management of forests resources through participatory forest management by empowering the local communities;
- Providing opportunity to the rural people to harvest and trade their biomass in a sustainable and efficient manner;
- Provide sustainable and efficient management tools for the supply of woody resources;
- Ensuring that forests are protected to promote regeneration and the ecosystem remains preserved;
- Ensuring sustainable supply of wood energy that benefit the rural people;
- Increased economic activity in the rural areas that results in poverty alleviation, and increase productive activities particularly for women;
- Reduce the emission of GHG as a result of reduction in the use of traditional biomass.

## PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

The project will look at the whole value chain of biomass, supply and demand side and will incorporate the following activities:

- Stock Taking Analysis on the state of the art of forest management in the ECOWAS region;
- Formulate an action plan and capacity and sensitization program for sustainable management of forests in relation to energy use for the ECOWAS Region;
- Conduct regional capacity building workshops on sustainable management of forests with a focus on REDD+;
- Conduct national capacity enhancement and sensitization activities in collaboration with ECREEE Focal Institutions and the respective Ministries of Environment and Forestry in ECOWAS countries;
- Develop training manuals based on the REDD+ scheme and adapted for the specific situation in the respective ECOWAS countries;
- Development of a website providing all training manuals and information material in all three ECOWAS languages;
- Conduct study tours and workshops for sensitization and on the spot training purposes.

## IMPACT

The REDD+ programme is planned to achieve the following impacts or results in:

- Detailed analysis of the state of the art of forest management in the ECOWAS region, including an understanding of management practices as well as of the involvement of the different actors (especially rural communities) in the commercialization of wood resources;
- Increased capacity of thee knowledge on sustainable management of forests;
- Restoration of degraded forests stands;
- Improvement in regulations for biomass (solid and charcoal) trade in order to stabilize the market;
- Improved efficiency in charcoal production and high output of charcoal from unit mass of wood;
- Easier access to biomass and less time used by women and children in going about fetching firewood through sustainable management of forests and reforestation;
- High impact on the reduction of emission of GHGs from unsustainable exploitation and use of woody biomass.

## PARTNERS



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