

Cote d'Ivoire

Proposal for UN-REDD Technical Assistance, 2018-2020

Context

Côte d'Ivoire is an exemplary case of an emerging trend in the international REDD+ process through which readiness and implementation happen simultaneously. The UN-REDD National Programme for REDD+ readiness in Côte d'Ivoire has advanced well since its commencement in November 2014, and will end its activities in 2017 or early 2018. Key activities achievements include the submission of the FREL / FRL to the UNFCCC, an advanced and nationally validated draft of the REDD+ National Strategy (NS), the identification of the Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, active private sector involvement in REDD+ discussions, a Working Group on Safeguards as well as an operational MRV unit are already in place.

At the same time, Côte d'Ivoire caught the attention of international partners, developing five implementation projects to achieve RBPs / RBF for REDD+ (see Table 1) and is currently developing its National Investment Framework (NIF) for the implementation of policies and measures identified by the REDD+ national strategy which will be finalized in 2017. The NIF is based on the REDD+ NS, the Policies and Measures (PAMs) identified as well as the study of mapping the public financial flows in the land use sector.

Table 1 REDD+ implementation forest related activities

Project / Programme	Partner	USD (\$)	Status
Forest Investment Program (FIP)	World Bank and African Development Bank, Climate Investment Funds (CIF)	28,000,000	Approved
Emissions Reductions Programme (Upcoming)	World Bank, Carbon Fund	60,000,000	Under development
REDD+ Pilot Project	French Cooperation Agency (AFD)	3,500,000	Approved
Private Sector engagement		2,000,000	Partially approved and under development
REDD+ Proposal for the Green Climate Fund	UNDP	63,000,000	Under development

Côte d'Ivoire therefore aspires to have the key elements in place (as per UNFCCC decisions) to be able to seek a first round of RBPs / RBF in the following three – five years.

Rationale and approach

In its NDC¹, Côte d'Ivoire established a target reduction of 28% of GHG emissions (based on the year 2012) by 2030, including an ambitious objective of 20% forest lands recovered. The government clearly indicated the REDD+ process as a strategic measure to mitigate and reduce deforestation and forest degradation through an improved land-use management plan, implementing Policies and Measures that lead to a sustainable green agriculture strongly related to a Payments for Ecosystem Services to encourage local reforestation and conservation of natural forests in the rural area and support small producers to adopt sustainable production practices called "Zero-Deforestation Agriculture".

¹ http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/PublishedDocuments/C%3%B4te%20d%27Ivoire%20First/INDC_CI_22092015.pdf

Côte d'Ivoire is very eager to move from the REDD+ readiness phase into a cross-sectorial REDD+ implementation phase. This process of moving towards implementation is strongly driven by the country and enjoys high-level political support (Decree No. 2012-1049 has established an organic structure to implement REDD+ in the country, composed of a National REDD+ Committee responsible for the overall management, an Inter-ministerial REDD+ Technical Committee responsible for sectoral coordination and the REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat).

With the National Programme ending in 2017 or early 2018, the current Technical Assistance (TA) in place for 2017, and without additional TA support in 2018-2020, there is a risk that the country will be unable to access REDD+ RBPs / RBF. Furthermore, the aforementioned five REDD+ related projects and programmes have or are being developed without a 'unifying' national REDD+ investment, finance or monitoring framework for REDD+ implementation. The 2017 TA with the NIF attempts to provide this framework. Nonetheless, even with an umbrella financial framework as the NIF, the country has turned towards the UN-REDD Programme to provide a continued Technical Assistance during 2018-2020 so that in this second Phase of REDD+ (in which it is currently entering), the enabling technical and institutional support required for Côte d'Ivoire to be able to seek RBPs / RBF are in place.

Technical Assistance (TA) requested

The Technical Assistance (TA) Côte d'Ivoire wishes to receive from the UN-REDD Programme, builds on the NP, the TA for 2017 and support provided by other Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs). The TA will allow the country to continue to strengthen and further develop the technical components required to receive RBPs / RBF (NFMS, FREL / FRL, NS, SIS and the BUR REDD+ Technical Annex). Furthermore, it will provide assistance to key enabling work streams to strengthen REDD+ implementation in terms of institutional and political anchorage, inter-sectorial linkages, financial tools, rendering the various PAMs economically viable, private sector engagement and effective stakeholder participation and capacity.

In line with Côte d'Ivoire's NDC document and its REDD+ National Strategy, this TA will support Côte d'Ivoire in moving fully into the second Phase of REDD+ (demonstration activities) with continued and recognised support from the UN-REDD Programme, and being prepared to request RBPs / RBF on a horizon of three – five years. Its catalytic value lays in providing key support in a holistic, non-project specific manner on a national level while consolidating the building blocks of the readiness phase and implementing the REDD+ NS and NIF (the countries' RBP / RBF roadmap).

Côte d'Ivoire Results Framework TA 2018-2020

UN-REDD TA outputs	RBPs issues or steps	UN-REDD TA agency	Timeline (year/s)	Indicators	Baseline
UN-REDD 2016-2020 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2: Country contributions to the mitigation of climate change through REDD+ are measured, reported and verified and necessary institutional arrangements are in place.					
Output 1.- Côte d'Ivoire consolidates its National Forest Monitoring System and submit a revised FREL/FRL that conforms to international UNFCCC requirements and align to the NS/AP for REDD+.	The NFMS is updated periodically.	FAO	2018	An early alert system on deforestation is established.	The NFMS is currently focused on historical forest cover changes.
			2019	Degree to which the link between the NFMS and the subnational REDD+ projects (e.g. AFD and ER-P) is strengthened by harmonizing methodologies applied for forest monitoring.	The NFMS is established but does not include information on current subnational REDD+ projects.
			2020	Forest changes (Activity data) are monitored for the period 2015-2018 and emission factors are improved. The GHG Inventory for the AFOLU sector supported.	The three pillars of the MRV are functional, but activity data need to be regularly assessed and emission factors need to be improved. The GHG inventory needs to be updated with the REDD+ data to ensure consistency.
	A revised FREL/FRL is prepared for submission.	FAO	2019	Emissions from fires are estimated and are included in the FREL/FRL.	Emissions from fire are not considered in the current FREL.
			2020	A revised FREL/FRL for both national and subnational levels is developed using updated activity data and emission factors.	The country has submitted its first FREL/FRL.
	UN-REDD 2016-2020 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3: REDD+ contributions to the mitigation of climate change are implemented and safeguarded with policies and measures that constitute results-based actions, including the development of appropriate and effective institutional arrangements.				

UN-REDD TA outputs	RBPs issues or steps	UN-REDD TA agency	Timeline (year/s)	Indicators	Baseline
Output 2.- National contributions to the mitigation of climate change through REDD+ in Côte d'Ivoire are designed and adopted, including the provision of additional social and environmental benefits, and in conformity with the UNFCCC's REDD+ safeguards.	Inclusive REDD+ implementation process to achieve RBPs.	UNDP	3 years 2018- 2019- 2020	Civil society and key stakeholders actively contributing to the implementation of PAMs. Civil society and local communities actively engaged in verification of info on social and environmental safeguards. Key stakeholders actively monitoring implementation of benefit sharing and grievance mechanisms.	No systematic involvement of key stakeholder (incl. civil society) in implementation of PAMs, safeguards or benefit sharing and grievance mechanisms.
Output 3.- Côte d'Ivoire has designed technically robust REDD+ PAMs are designed and implemented to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, while fully accounting for UNFCCC safeguards.	Safeguards are addressed and respected	UN Environment	2018	Link to 1 st Summary of Information in the UNFCCC web portal - focus on readiness.	Côte d'Ivoire has not submitted a Summary of Information on Safeguards to the UNFCCC.
			2020	Link to 2 nd Summary of Information in the UNFCCC web portal – focus on early implementation (2020).	Cote d'Ivoire has not submitted a Summary of Information on Safeguards to the UNFCCC.
Output 4.- REDD+ PAMs in Côte d'Ivoire have a Technical assistance provided for the robust institutional anchoring, with a wide range of economic sectors engaged in REDD+ objectives.	Forest governance is reinforced.	FAO	2018 2019	Number of legal texts implemented and approved by the government.	The country has not identified all application texts required for the implementation of the Forest Code.
	The National Strategy and the National	UNDP	2018- 2019- 2020	REDD+ PAMs are integrated in the planning documents of the Ministries.	PAMs have been identified but additional work needs to be done for their uptake and

UN-REDD TA outputs	RBPs issues or steps	UN-REDD TA agency	Timeline (year/s)	Indicators	Baseline
	Investment Framework are under implementation (including the creation of a National REDD+ / Climate Fund to receive RBPs and investment funding)				implementation in various Ministries.
			2018 2019	Documentation on reinforcing south-south exchanges and synergies on zero-deforestation agriculture and REDD+ with Ghana.	South-south exchanges with Ghana have been discussed, but have not materialised yet.
			2019 2020	Government decides to set up REDD+ / Climate Fund and launches ToRs for its creation.	No REDD+ / Climate Fund exists and political discussions to create it have not taken place so far.
	REDD+ implementation leads results that can be MRV'd and presented towards the countries' NDC	UNDP	2019 2020	The results of the REDD+ projects and initiatives are clearly communicated by the country in the UNFCCC.	Current REDD+ projects and related initiatives are not yet set up to directly contribute to the NDC.
REDD+ PAMs outlined in the National REDD+ Strategy are rendered economically viable and financed in the long-term through: (i)	UN Environment	1 year 2018	Number of financial institutions with significant investments in cocoa production aware of agroforestry financing opportunities in relation to zero deforestation agriculture. Number of official exchanges between the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministries of Agriculture and Economics and Finance on	Lack of finance for agroforestry development in association with cocoa production. Financial institutions and companies in the cocoa sector do not perceive investment in agroforestry at scale as a viable	

UN-REDD TA outputs	RBPs issues or steps	UN-REDD TA agency	Timeline (year/s)	Indicators	Baseline
	financial and value-chain analysis of agroforestry production models in association with cocoa production, and (ii) design of business models to finance zero deforestation agriculture, including options for de-risking investments			viable public incentives to attract private investment in agroforestry in the cocoa sector.	economic activity. Lack of public incentives for sustainable cocoa production in association with agroforestry.
		UN Environment	3 years 2018-2019-2020	Number of financial schemes designed and tested in collaboration with relevant financial institutions.	There is appetite to engage in zero deforestation agriculture schemes, especially from international cocoa and palm oil companies. However, existing business models are not scalable and are perceived as risky by both the agroindustrial and financial sectors. The financial sector does not have dedicated mechanisms to finance sustainable commodity production, nor does it count with public sector guarantees to hedge against the risks associated with these investments. As a result, availability of long-term capital for sustainable production is scarce.
Means of verification			2018 - 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual reports from REDD+ programmes and partnerships ➤ UNFCCC submissions and feedback ➤ Minutes of policy meetings; reports of technical events. ➤ Stakeholder surveys 	

National ownership and sustainability

A working-session to Abidjan was organised on 26 and 27 April 2017 to work together with the government on the TA work plan (present in person CTA and Lead Advisor with UN-REDD colleagues participating by Skype-conference). A technical working session was organised with the REDD+ National coordination to present the possibility of receiving Technical Assistance from the UN-REDD Programme for the period of 2018-2020 to support the country to reach the third phase of REDD+ (RBPs / RBF). During the session, a brainstorming exercise was undertaken and potential outputs were identified together with the technical team of the REDD+ National coordination. During these discussions and while identifying the outputs, the support offered by other TFPs were considered.

Subsequently, the results of these technical discussions and the identified outputs were presented to the REDD+ National coordinator². After this presentation, the coordinator and the technical team unilaterally reviewed the proposed outputs. Thereafter, the outputs were revised together with the National REDD+ Coordination and the UN-REDD representatives and subsequently validated. On 4th May 2017, the national coordinator requested by e-mail the UN-REDD Team to proceed with the proposal, as required, to secure funding for the agreed technical assistance. In addressing the comments raised by Norway, these were integrated into the country section and re-sent to the national coordinator for his clearance, which was received on the 26 of May.

Annex 1 presents the Risk Management Framework of proposed TA for Côte d'Ivoire.

² Link to the presentation: <https://prezi.com/view/etV5DFbaNWfg2UYKWaFL/>

Annex 1: Risk Management Framework of proposed TA for Côte d'Ivoire

Risk description	Rating	Mitigation measure
External risks		
Côte d'Ivoire has no clear, long-term vision on forests therefore risking derailing the REDD+ implementation process	P = Medium I = Medium	A letter was sent by Technical and Financial Partners (TFP) to the Prime Minister to alert the Government of this concern and offer their assistance to implement appropriate reforms in the forest sector and land use management. The Prime Minister has called upon his Ministers to draft an answer and has mobilised his government to address this issue, clearly highlighting the importance of REDD+ and FLEGT processes.
Political / economic issues within Côte d'Ivoire's armed forces leading to current and recurring unrest, including in cities in the country's "cocoa belt" may lead to a situation in which the implementation of REDD+ activities are being affected negatively.	P = Medium I = High	The situation will be monitored closely together with the national counterpart and potential adverse impacts on the implementation of REDD+ activities in the country documented. This should enable timely and tailored adaptive measures to be taken into account.
In the course of the three-year Technical Assistance provided by the Programme is no longer considered relevant in Côte d'Ivoire.	P= Low I = Low	The deployment of TA was done based on (i) gap analysis; (ii) in discussion with governments; (iii) according to the expertise of the team. In principle, this risk has a low probability of occurrence. However, should it materialize; the Programme has built in a buffer to allow redeployment of teams where they are most needed. Also, while the UN-REDD team does not have oversight over the annual workplans of the sources of funds being assisted, the dialogue with and trust of the country counterparts should enable an early discussion and adjustment of the UN-REDD expertise made available.
The recommendations of the UN-REDD team are not appropriated or adopted by the governments or stakeholders in country	P= Low I = High	As above, the TA has been jointly identified with counterparts based on the needs identified by them. In cases where such advice or expertise is finally not taken on board, the impact will be quite high as the Programme would have failed to deliver relevant, quality or applicable advice.

Risk description	Rating	Mitigation measure
<p>The advances resulting from the assistance of the UN-REDD team are not attributed to the Programme as it plays a supportive function.</p>	<p>P = Medium I = TBD</p>	<p>In an environment where TA is deployed amidst multiple other funds, the impacts of this TA are likely to be unappreciated in comparison with the financial flows supporting that same activity. E.g. UN-REDD TA providing expert advice on MRV systems financed by other TFP. The likelihood of this occurring are medium and impacts will have to be determined depending on the country context. Request for support will be documented, communicated through various institutional channels and other TFPs so that the impact of the support provided by the Programme has a high visibility.</p>
<p>Internal</p>		
<p>The National REDD+ coordination is unable to maintain its leadership for the implementation of REDD+ through various TFPs and funding streams, hence the process is uncoordinated and unsuccessful</p>	<p>P= Medium I = High</p>	<p>TA activities include support to the National REDD+ Coordination to obtain high-level political and financial engagement for the REDD+ process as well as coordination between the TFPs to recognise the National REDD+ coordination's leadership. Côte d'Ivoire is currently considering moving the National REDD+ Coordination directly under the Prime Minister's Office.</p>
<p>The presence of in-country support through longer missions is requested from governments and increases costs beyond what is planned for.</p>	<p>P= Medium I =Medium</p>	<p>The budget covers primarily regional and global staff costs and contracts, with some resources allocated to missions and other local costs. Should certain support and expertise require longer missions/presence in country, the limited financial buffer would imply reallocating from one country to another or from one activity to another within the same country. The Programme will undertake a mid-term revision of TA and budgets to determine what flexibility is available and table such reallocations for approval of the concerned country.</p>

Risk description	Rating	Mitigation measure
<p>Inability to respond to changes in country needs due to the rigidity in reallocating resources from one agency to the other.</p>	<p>P = Low I = Medium</p>	<p>While the TA to be deployed was identified in conjunction and consultation with counterparts, this was done quite early in the planning for 2017 and therefore may be subject to changes. This may entail requesting more expertise from one agency than the other. Considering the budgeting, contracting and fund allocation structures, it will be difficult to accommodate for changes that entail reallocation from one agency to another therefore diminishing the relevance of the Programme to countries and subsequently its reputation.</p>

* P: Probability; I: Impact; TBD: To Be Determined