



Concept Note “From Coast to Coast”

Exploring a Strategic Partnership Between Costa-Rica and Cote d’Ivoire on REDD+

*South-South Knowledge Exchange Cote D’Ivoire-Costa Rica
September 2016*

1. Background

After the political turmoil in 2010 and 2011, Cote d’Ivoire quickly recovered and engaged in the mechanism REDD+ in 2012. The country is progressing fast, with strong impulse and political commitment at the highest level. The new forest code of 2014 sets the goal of increasing forest cover from about 12% to 20%. REDD+ is a dynamic process and aims to play a catalytic role to reach this goal. Zero deforestation agriculture appears as the central pillar of emerging REDD+ vision and strategy, and Cote d’Ivoire is exploring payments for environmental services (PSE) to deploy REDD+ action at the grass-root level. In September 2014, the Head of State announced the ambitious goal of making Cote d’Ivoire, the world leader in cocoa production, a zero deforestation cocoa supplier. 2015 marks the middle of a critical decade when Cote d’Ivoire aims at passing an historical point in its forest transition, from net deforestation towards sustainable forest expansion.

Costa-Rica is a world model in terms of forest conservation. The country has moved from 29% forest cover in 1996 to more than 50% nowadays. This remarkable achievement owes much to a high level of popular awareness, sustained political will, and the pioneer implementation of PES at the national level to link forest conservation and expansion to social and economic benefits. But Costa-Rica economy also relies heavily on commercial agriculture, notably pineapple and also cocoa, which progressively challenge national forests. The country is well advanced in transitioning from readiness to REDD+ investment as a way to sustain its forest conservation achievements through expansion of its PES scheme and control of its agricultural expansion.

Costa-Rica and Cote d’Ivoire share an ambitious vision for forest conservation and expansion, in the context of national economies strongly rooted into agricultural production at commercial scale, with



common crops like coffee and cocoa. They both actively progress with their national REDD+ process as a way to consolidate their achievements and secure their forest transition and expansion further. They both see PES as an instrumental tool to deploy REDD+ and decouple sustainable agriculture from deforestation. They are both committed to engage constructively with the private sector, including international leaders in commodity supply chains. Cote d'Ivoire is currently mapping out possible funding sources for PES and hopes to engage proactively in resource-mobilization through mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

With facilitation from the United Nations REDD Programme, Cote d'Ivoire is reaching out to Costa-Rica to explore the interest of entering a strategic partnership on REDD+, sustainable agriculture and PES to secure their forest transition and expansion dynamics. The first stepping stone is a South-South Knowledge Exchange with Cote D'Ivoire delegation visiting Costa Rica in September 2016.

2. Objectives and expected results

The strategic partnership will act as a framework to intensify technical and political cooperation between the two countries, to share ideas, experiences and lessons learnt, with the ultimate goal of enhancing, strengthening and accelerating their respective REDD+ processes. The South-South Knowledge Exchange primary goal is to share experiences and build capacities that can contribute to the finalization of the National REDD+ Strategy in Cote D'Ivoire Specific objectives:

- ✚ Understanding the key elements of a PES scheme and contribute to the development of a national PES scheme in Cote d'Ivoire thanks to technical backstopping from Costa-Rica during piloting and scaling-up phases. Piloting PES is seen as an essential learning pillar for both the design and implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy (expected end 2016) on what concerns community engagement, benefit-sharing, resource mobilizing from national and international sources and fiduciary arrangements. The ambition is to eventually have this National PES System supported by a National REDD+ Fund.
- ✚ Understand how to design an MRV system to control the expansion of priority cash crop
- ✚ Assess and learn how to coordinate the negotiation of public-private partnerships and agreements with international corporations involved in commodities supply chain
- ✚ Learn, assess and exchange knowledge, experiences and how to promote cooperation between research institutions on sustainable production of strategic crops like coco
- ✚ Understanding key factors of success including systems to navigate through weakness, risks, strengths and opportunities to develop a national strategy on REDD+
- ✚ Understanding how forests are monitored, managed and valued including marketing and value addition mechanism for forest products.



- ✚ Assess the role of the different stakeholders in the process of such a remarkable achievement in the forest sector in Costa Rica

Lessons drawn from the practical experience of Costa Rica can improve the understanding of Cote D'Ivoire partners to buy-in and subsequently create an enabling environment for designing and implementing PES schemes whilst in the same time is expected that lessons learned will be feeding in the National Strategy Development REDD+ in Cote D'Ivoire.

Immediate Expected results:

- ✚ Key leaders and practitioners from Cote D'Ivoire have participated in the mission and the participants will have a thorough understanding of the potential for PES –assessing its innovative blend of economic and regulatory instruments – and its hitches and successes, which provides a valuable and pragmatic example to contribute in the building of their owns PES to conserve and regenerate ecosystem in Cote D'Ivoire.
- ✚ A mission report is formalized to broadly share learning and analysis on opportunities that PES offer for sustainable forest expansion vision in Cote D'Ivoire, and its robust implementation
- ✚ Lessons Learned Report highlighting key learnings that are relevant to National Strategy Development and can contribute to a more comprehensive approach to REDD+ in Cote D'Ivoire
- ✚ A technical debriefing workshop is organized in Cote D'Ivoire to allow dissemination of lessons learnt and experiences accumulated during the visit. Key analysis and adaptable knowledge is shared and discussed publicly during a workshop with major national stakeholders including civil society
- ✚ A Letter of Intent is signed between Cote D'Ivoire and Costa Rica with identified areas of cooperation derived from face to face discussions during the Knowledge Exchange

Long-Term Expected results:

- ✚ Joint long term partnership between Cote D'Ivoire and Costa Rica possible areas of future cooperation including: continuous consultations from a distance through a coordination team on both side; crossed immersion of two or three experts from one country to the other for two to four months (learning language and context, providing “external” support to national REDD+ agenda, part-time following up on priorities at home); learning visits on priority themes (sustainable cocoa production, PES, MRV for crop expansion, REDD+ financial strategy);



deployment of national expertise in the other country to support on specific area of cooperation, for instance Costa-Rica to support with PES, Cote d'Ivoire to support with sustainable cocoa production; bilateral meetings at technical and political levels during international meetings and conferences on REDD+, forestry, climate change, sustainable agriculture; joint production of technical notes and analyses, articles, press releases...

- ✚ A comprehensive response to secure zero deforestation agriculture is in place in both countries thanks to technical and political exchanges on the multiple aspects of the architecture, including:
 - The joint design of a MRV system to control expansion of priority cash crops
 - The coordinated negotiation of public-private partnerships and agreements with international corporations involved in commodities supply chain
 - The exchange of knowledge and promotion of cooperation between research institutions on sustainable production of strategic crops like cocoa
- ✚ The PES in Cote D'Ivoire are developed and includes the exchange of experience and the results of the technical backstopping from Costa Rica
- ✚ National REDD+ Strategy developed with elements from Costa Rica experience well integrated
- ✚ The transition towards REDD+ implementation is strengthened and accelerated thanks to close experience and opinion sharing on issues like REDD+ policies and measures, safeguards, NFMS, reference level and financial strategy
- ✚ The transition towards REDD+ implementation is strengthened and accelerated thanks to close experience sharing, consultations and convergence in terms of dialogue with international partners on access to REDD+ finance (GCF, World Bank, bilateral donors...)

3. UN-REDD approach to support this strategic partnership

Development practitioners must go beyond knowledge products and technology and draw on capacity development instruments that facilitate practitioner knowledge exchange and experiential learning such as South-South Exchanges. This provides countries access to unique tacit knowledge that is only revealed through peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges. This is done through—the sharing of information and experiences for customized learning—which in turn helps to lessen the knowledge divide, build consensus and coalitions for change. In other words, knowledge exchange meets immediate, operational knowledge gaps by fostering the sharing of countries' experiences. Similarly, they encourage cross-country partnerships that can help strengthen local ownership and leadership of development issues by providing



just-in-time support on “how-to.” However, in order to ensure an effective learning exchange, the knowledge exchange programs needs to be rigorously planned and evaluated and in a systematic manner in order to assess how effective they are in meeting countries’ needs and drawing lessons that can be replicated in other similar contexts.

The UN-REDD Programme will support Costa-Rica and Cote d’Ivoire for the south-south knowledge exchange including the design and management of this strategic partnership on REDD+ to ensure that overall objectives are met. This support will be provided “on demand” by the two countries, and can materialize as follow:

- ✚ Responding to the demands of Cote D’Ivoire to frame, prepare and backstop the knowledge exchange for a more efficient and effective program.
- ✚ Ensuring ownership and commitment to the learning process, to establish conditions to promote change.
- ✚ Ensuring strategically selected participants on both Costa Rica and Cote D’Ivoire sides of the knowledge exchange, to ensure participants have relevant experience to share and are in key positions to effect change
- ✚ Facilitating conditions that may promote a long standing partnership between the two countries
- ✚ Advise and facilitate the early discussions to identify needs, formulate expectations, scope and set up the partnership
- ✚ Facilitate communication (translation, interpretation...) in the early stage
- ✚ Offer the UN-REDD workspace as an online platform to facilitate communication and exchanges
- ✚ Facilitate access to other international financial support
- ✚ Provide technical backstopping on the various topics of cooperation through participation to joint missions, preparation of key notes etc.
- ✚ Provide technical backstopping in countries to digest learnings from the partnership and translate them into concrete actions
- ✚ Support knowledge and change management processes
- ✚ Support with monitoring and reporting tools and methodologies.

4. Methodology

One of the factors that can contribute to achieving the success of the south-south learning exchange is the selection of participants who are anticipated to have the power to act towards bringing about desired outcomes. A program itself cannot automatically lead to intermediate outcomes unless the program participants are in the position to understand, learn and practice based on knowledge gained from the program. Thus the members of the Cote D’Ivoire delegation are strategically selected based on their



positioning to initiate or manage new action based on lessons, and to attain a comprehensive representation from relevant stakeholder groups.

Ideally, the learning exchange will be carried out by the following team of participants from Cote D'Ivoire:

	STRUCTURE	NAME	FONCTION
1	Comité national REDD+	Serge N'Goran Teckly	Technical Advisor to the Prime Minister Office
2	MINADER Ministry of Agriculture	N'GUESSAN Koffi Rodrigue	Director of Water and Farm Modernization in the Ministry of Agriculture
3	MINEF Ministry of Water and Forest	AKE Abroba Jérôme	Director of Cadastral and Forestry Development
4	SODEFOR Forest Development Corporation	Colonel Mamadou SANGARE	General Director.
5	Ministère du Plan	KOYA Jean Claude	Technical Advisor
6	Secretariat Executive	YAO MARCEL	National Coordinator REDD+
7	Permanent de REDD+	KADJO Alloua	Responsible for stakeholder engagement
8		AKA JEAN PAUL	Responsible for REDD+ Strategy
9		KONAN YAO ERIC	Responsible MRV
10	ONG IMPACTUM	BROU Jean Michel	Responsible of PSE projects
11	ONU-REDD+	Carlos Riano	Main Technical Advisor UNREDD+ program

To develop an efficient knowledge exchange, knowledge seekers must be able to identify their needs and describe their demands. A key challenge in the knowledge exchange process is the matching of demand and supply of knowledge. As a first scoping of learning areas, data collection and meetings in Costa Rica will aim at answering the following driving questions on Cote D'Ivoire side.

- How Costa Rica has implemented the environmental services payment schemes? How the country has financed them?
- How was defined participation of the local community and civil society in the implementation process of REDD +?
- How the country has adapted its legal framework (laws, decreed, codes) to integrate REDD+ strategy: Forest Code, Land Code, the National Development Plan? What dialogues bodies have been created to support the implementation of REDD +?
- How the private sector has been engaged in the process, how them participate in the implementation, what type of business were created and/or processed from REDD +?
- What methodology has been implemented for the NFMS and FREL / FRL? How you achieved the data sharing from different institutions to include the most complete and coherent data?



- How new technologies are made available to the REDD + to ensure transparency and coherence of the data and results of PES? And how the local community and civil society are involved?
- The backup information system, how it was implemented in the regions?

Successful knowledge exchange activities are characterized by continued engagement, regular consultations, and evidence based recommendations. Regular interaction is necessary in both vertical (within-country) and horizontal (cross-country) relationships. The periods before and after the visit in Costa Rica will be marked by various events to allow dialogue, and increase prospect for strong, lasting and jointly beneficial relationships between the two countries, and between the participants and the REDD+ process in Cote D'Ivoire. The learning exchange needs to create or support active networks for REDD+. Once set up, the UN-REDD workspace will offer also a useful tool to maximize benefits by offering an online platform dedicated to REDD+ international exchanges with knowledge exchange network (community of practice) and forum to keep learning process ongoing.

Importantly, the benefits from the exchange programme should not limit to the frame of the current terms of reference, and Cote D'Ivoire will be encouraged to explore additional ways. For instance the type of activities following the study tour may include meetings, joint research, dialogue and seminars, with a view toward building cross-country and within country partnerships. The emphasis is on horizontal or peer-to-peer interaction since it not only facilitates tacit knowledge exchange but also creates empathy and inspiration. This helps to build cross-country partnerships. Unless participants take specific actions to change after returning home, study tours have little chance of contributing to institution building. The focus is on establishing mid- and long-term working relationships between the participants of partner countries and of the organizations that they visit to produce practical outcomes in institution building. It is expected that this learning exchange will enable establishing joint innovation platforms for knowledge synthesis, exchange and implementation, and outlining a roadmap for future collaboration.

5. Activities, Planning and Deliverables

Activity 1: Formulate a detailed agenda for the visit with Costa Rica counterparts

- ✚ Engage with Costa Rica counterparts, discuss objectives and relevant activities and meetings to undertake, set up a schedule, mobilize participants, refine the concept note and logistics
- ✚ Deliverable: Detailed terms of reference, delegates list, including budget and logistical note
- ✚ Deadline: 12th July 2016

Activity 2: Prepare the mission technically



- ✚ Organize a pre-mission meeting/skype to create common understanding between the co-organizers of both countries and the UNREDD.
- ✚ Organize a pre-mission video conference with focal point/team in Costa Rica and Cote D'Ivoire to introduce participants and start dialogue with first and broad discussions on the substance
- ✚ Provide documented written materials from Costa Rica in advance to acquaint participants with the substance of the upcoming discussions/exchanges
- ✚ **Deliverable:** skeleton of final report, including a list of key questions and information to be confirmed, collected or discussed and analyzed during the mission.
- ✚ **Deadline:** 29th July 2016

Activity 3: Undertake the high level learning exchange

- ✚ Tentative agenda could include an initial briefing with country's Ministry in charge of forests, presentations from national experts, networking, site visits with catalytic and inspiring effect, sessions to share country experiences and prepare country action plans. Meetings could involve relevant public or private institutions, research centers, civil society and local communities' representatives, and field visits
- ✚ Discuss/Sign Letter of Intent and long-term partnership development
- ✚ **Deliverable:** Concrete and visible experiences gathered; Letter of Intent signed
- ✚ **Deadline:** September 2016

Activity 4: Prepare a draft report

- ✚ Team members contribute to fleshing out the draft final report based on shared responsibilities, and discuss information and analysis. Team members will meet to confront inputs and consolidate data and report, and formulate proposals of action plan to transform lessons learnt into concrete opportunities of improvement for Cote D'Ivoire
- ✚ Share and discuss findings with the focal point/team in Costa Rica through video conference, to review and deepen analysis, lessons learnt, and fine tune restitution.
- ✚ **Deliverable:** Draft final report

Activity 5: Stock taking of lessons learned from Costa Rica for national strategy for Cote D'Ivoire

- ✚ Lessons Learned Report from Costa Rica and focusing on what is adaptable, usable for integration into REDD+ national strategy for Cote D'Ivoire
- ✚ Take stock of existing forestry challenges, how to address them in light of experience learning from Costa Rica and addressing success factors to reach a strategy on REDD+



- ✚ Map forestry strategic options at national level that can provide key action programs that are to be integrated in the national strategy
- ✚ **Deliverable:** National REDD+ Strategy for in Cote D'Ivoire
- ✚ **Deadline:** October 2016

Activity 6: Organize, finalize and disseminate

- ✚ Share experience and lessons learnt during a technical workshop with other members of the sector in Cote D'Ivoire
- ✚ Refine the analysis and consolidate the final report of the learning exchange
- ✚ Extract key lessons learnt and proposals for advancing institutional collaboration between the two countries
- ✚ Produce a briefing note for media for public dissemination
- ✚ Start drafting a partnership agreement based on Letter of Intent and joint areas of cooperation possibly including:
 - ✚ **Deliverables:** Final report for the learning exchange; Report of learning exchanges including lessons learnt and practical proposals for Cote D'Ivoire; Press release; MOU
- ✚ **Deadline:** October-December 2016

