



The REDD+ Strategic Framework of the Dem. Republic of Congo

Seizing the opportunities offered by REDD+ for the development of the DRC

1. REDD+ in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

✓ REDD+ is designed to support the development of the country

The international mechanism REDD+, currently being negotiated under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, aims to financially promote the efforts of a country in terms of reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation of the forests.

With 10% of the world's tropical forests, the DRC has forestry assets of international importance. REDD+ represents a significant opportunity to support the transition of the DRC towards a green economy. The mobilization of additional funding should in fact help place the DRC's national development priorities in the context of environmental preservation, social equity, human development and economic efficiency.

✓ Launch of the REDD+ process in 2009, under the aegis of the Ministry of the Environment (MECNT)

The process of preparation for an international funding mechanism for the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and the Degradation of the forests (REDD+) for the DRC was launched in 2009 with the support of the UN-REDD Programme (UNDP, UNEP, FAO) and the FCPF (World Bank). The governance of the process was established by a decree from the Prime Minister (2009), setting-up a National Committee, an Inter-Ministerial Committee and a National REDD+ Coordination.

✓ The DRC, a REDD+ pioneer

Since 2009, thanks to an ambitious and highly dynamic process, the DRC has positioned itself as a leading REDD+ actor; credible and recognized both nationally and internationally.

With the support of partners, the UN-REDD program (UNDP, UNEP and FAO) and the FCPF (World Bank), the DRC has achieved numerous advances and counts to its credit the following achievements:

- The first African country to have their **REDD+ Preparation Plan validated** by the UN-REDD and the FCPF;
- The first country to have an **Investment Plan validated** by the World Bank's Forest Investment Plan, thus securing \$60 million for the implementation of REDD+;
- The first African country to develop a regulatory framework concerning the approval of REDD+ projects and to establish a **National REDD+ Registry** (registration of projects, monitoring and evaluation);
- The first African country to build a **National Forest Monitoring System** (www.rdc-snsf.org);
- National consensus on the drivers of deforestation;
- Twenty-two million US dollars in funding secured from the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) for the implementation of **six REDD+ pilot projects**;
- One of the first countries in the world to put in place a **National REDD+ Trust Fund**;
- One of the first countries in the world to develop **National REDD+ Standards** as well as an Information System on Standards, in the spirit of the Cancun Agreements.

2. The National REDD+ Strategic Framework

✓ Why a National REDD+ Strategic Framework?

Global Objective: To develop a clear and pragmatic vision for the implementation of REDD+ in the DRC and send a strong signal to the international community that the country is ready to enter into an investment phase in 2013.

In order to prepare for the investment phase and catalyze additional REDD+ funding, it is necessary to start two dialogues; one at the national level with the Government and another between the Government and the international community to define the priorities and respective commitments.

The National REDD+ Strategic Framework constitutes a framework for the conduct of a **Policy Dialogue:**

- *At the National level:* Introduce REDD+ sectoral tracks and programmatic policy in the DRC, prioritize them with regard to the Government's development agenda and formally integrate them into sectoral policies and the cross-cutting development strategy of the country;
- *At the international level:* Demonstrate to the international community the efforts undertaken by the country, debate the relevance of the DRC's reflections on the concrete implementation of REDD+ in the country and discuss the respective commitments to ensure the launch of the investment phase.

✓ What is the National REDD+ Strategic Framework?

The National REDD+ Strategic Framework is designed to present a strategic vision and lay the programmatic framework of a National REDD+ policy which is designed to act on the direct (slash and burn agriculture, artisanal logging, wood energy consumption) and indirect (rapid population growth, lack of law enforcement, absence of land planning, etc.) drivers of deforestation, while actively contributing to the development of the country.

REDD+ inserts itself in a cross-cutting manner in the country's development strategy.

The implementation of a National REDD+ vision is based on key political commitments expressed in the transformation of the country towards sustainable growth, some of which have already been initiated by the country;

- Development of a national land use plan;
- Improvement in the management of natural resources, including the fight against illegal logging;
- Facilitation of access to sustainable energy for all;
- Development of agriculture by promoting sustainable management, etc.

3. Next Steps

- ✓ **International launch in Doha at the next Climate Conference COP 18 by H.E. the Vice-Premier responsible for the Budget, H.E., the Minister of the Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism and H.E. the Minister Delegate responsible for Finance.**

The DRC will present the REDD+ Strategic Framework as well as the National REDD+ Trust Fund to the international community during a *side-event* on December 4, 2012 from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm alongside the international negotiations on climate (CoP 18) at Doha, Qatar.

- ✓ **In 2013, deepen the policy dialogue** at both the national level and with the international community in order to define respective commitments.

ANNEX – EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES PROPOSED BY THE REDD+ STRATEGY

Pillar	Examples of activities
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize the process while reforming the legal, institutional and fiscal framework of the sector; Analyze (i) by major area of consumption, the current and projected demand for wood-based energy by category of user, and (ii) by major area of production the capacity of sustainable production, together with (iii) the supply chains ; Develop a national expertise in the different types of alternative wood-based energy (biomass, hydro, gas) together with the sustainable production of wood-based energy; Implement on a large scale the national strategy for wood-based and alternative energy (including agro-forestry projects in the outskirts of large urban centers, distribution of improved cooking stoves in priority urban centers, etc.);
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus, as much as possible, public and private investments in agriculture and livestock, especially large scale investments, in the savannah zone, or in the degraded forests; Establish technical standards for the development towards sustainable agriculture; Identify national priority zones, using modeling to optimize land use, for the development of perennial crops; Support the development of sustainable agriculture, conditioned on the definition and enforcement of a zoning plan integrated with REDD+ objectives; Structure and support the rural areas by developing a legal framework; Improve the production techniques (based primarily on slash and burn practices); Introduce mechanization and integrated soil fertility management; etc.
Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the legal, institutional and fiscal framework for logging to ensure greater formalization of the sector; Enforcement of the law and the fight against illegal logging: support the implementation of a traceability and monitoring system of wood on the market; etc.
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Registry of REDD+ Investments enables the monitoring and evaluation of all the REDD+ initiatives or REDD+ aligned activities; Test, refine and use the tools online (internet) and follow the implementation of REDD+ and its impact, enable the open sharing of information and its verification; Put in place, fund and operationalize the National REDD+ Trust Fund ; etc.
Land Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of forward looking and multi-use national and provincial land use plans, enabling a clear and rational allocation of land Experiment with one or more micro-zoning methodologies; Strengthen the capacity of state bodies responsible for the collection, creation and centralization of geographic and socio-economic data; etc.
Land Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the on-going process of land tenure reform; Experiment with the land tenure administration, one or more methodologies of clarification of land rights based on the participatory mapping; Strengthen the land tenure administration's capacities, in the targeted areas for REDD+ investments, through training and equipment; Disseminate the land tenure law and build capacity for dialogue; etc.
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the understanding of the dynamic demographics in the DRC and its connections with economic growth, food security, health, infrastructure and the environment Educate the population, particularly the young and community leaders, about the benefits and methods of family planning; Increase the access of young people, particularly young girls, to primary and secondary education as well as higher education; etc.