

**Enhancing UN-REDD Regional Support & Advisory Services in the Congo Basin (Africa)**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

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| I. Summary | |
| Objective | To enhance and scale-up REDD+ national capacity in the region, building on the results and innovations of REDD+ readiness work Congo Basin countries. |
| Expected results | 1. The *Joint Declaration of Intent on REDD+ in the Congo Basin* is implemented 2. REDD+ Phase II (investments) becomes operational in selected countries of the Congo Basin to set best practice for the rest of the countries. |
| Level of intervention | Regional: Congo Basin countries (notably the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Congo and Central African Republic), plus the region as a whole |
| Related Work Area[[1]](#footnote-1) as defined in the [UN-REDD Programme Strategy](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4598&Itemid=53) | All work areas, with an emphasis on Governance |
| Duration | 24 months (2014-2015) |
| Total amount  requested (US$) | US$ 2 million |

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| II. Background |
| Africa represents a key region for REDD+ globally. It is richly endowed with the Congo Basin, the second largest forest area in the world covering more than 2,000,000 km2 of tropical forest. The developing nations in the Congo Basin have been politically engaged on REDD+, including the UNFCCC negotiations for REDD+, and have demonstrated a determination to advance on the REDD+ mechanism in their countries and cooperate as a region.  Africa has been receiving support from the Government of Norway since 2009, in various forms. This has pioneered results in national REDD+ readiness processes. Furthermore, because the Congo Basin is a large forest mass it is crucial front in global climate-change mitigation. Accordingly, at the climate summit of Durban in 2011, the Congo Basin nations and their eight major donor countries signed the *Joint Declaration on Intent on REDD+*, aimed at enhancing forest governance in the region and scaling up climate finance internationally. The signatory parties were Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Congo, and Rwanda. The donor countries were Australia, Canada, the EU, France, Germany, Norway, United Kingdom, and USA.  Substantively, most countries in the region have adopted REDD+ readiness proposals (known as R-PPs). A number of REDD+ pilot projects are in design or in early implementation phases. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which hosts the largest portion of the Congo basin forest, is transitioning from REDD+ readiness to REDD+ investment, with a REDD+ Strategy and a national REDD+ Fund. At this current stage of progress, the complexity and the potential for results-based investments in REDD+ in Africa demands the intensification of technical and policy support from international partners, notably the participating UN agencies of the UN-REDD Programme. Therefore, addressing regional needs for in-country capacity building and expertise development in Congo Basin countries, as well as in strengthening the UN-REDD regional support team for Africa, serve as an effective avenue for advancing REDD+ process in the region. |

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| III. Results framework and theory of change | |
| Additional technical and policy advisory support to the region will serve to capitalise and better orient the scaling-up of Norwegian support to the region. It will build on the results and innovations of the REDD+ readiness work in a number of African countries. It will also serve to realise the mentioned *Joint Declaration of Intent on REDD+ in the Congo Basin*, notably in terms of enhancing forest governance in the countries and increasing climate finance for REDD+ purposes.  The need for additional expertise can be explained by the following factors:   * A few countries in the region are entering Phase II of REDD+, and focusing on REDD+ investments. This is an operational phase that builds on awareness-raising, the creation of political momentum/structures, and the preparation of studies that are characteristic of Phase I. It thus requires additional and somewhat different expertise (such as programming, implementation, monitoring) than Phase I. * In general, REDD+ requires sophisticated public policies and policy-makers to understand and address the complexities and make difficult trade-offs. The countries of the region are weak states, with very minimal institutional and human capacities. They lack or have weak sectoral policies, and there is a virtual absence of policies’ rigorous implementation. This means that even Business As Usual policy development and implementation is greatly constrained. * Policy-making and coordination to facilitate the implementation of REDD+ in this context is almost impossible without outside help. Deploying external expertise in the region is not an easy task either, because of language barriers, the unwillingness of top experts to move to the region for a longer period of time (and thus properly understand the local context), and the resentment of national governments towards international experts. This is why this document presents a multilevel approach that enhances the existing expertise base in Nairobi, UNDP country offices and expert pools, so they may be deployed as needed.   In this sense, in order to enhance and scale up the innovative work in the Congo Basin, there is need to mobilise additional and specialised expertise for the region. Examples include regularised regional support based on high-level analytical support; best practice and international-level expertise by establishing linkages among the various threads of work such as FCPF, FIP, bilateral support; sectoral investments in agriculture and energy, while helping other sectors such as infrastructure and mining to be more REDD+ compliant; and fostering ongoing policy reform processes such as the economic governance matrix, land use planning, land tenure and public sector finance reforms. The impact of such additional support will be seen in permanent structures and capacities in the countries.  The proposal has three Outcomes:   1. National REDD+ Coordination Capacities Strengthened 2. National and sectoral development processes integrated in REDD+ actions 3. REDD+ Phase II have become operational in selected countries in the region   A detailed Results Framework is provided in Annex I. | |
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| IV. Management arrangements and partnerships | |
| The proposed additional support will be undertaken as part of the existing UN-REDD Programme “Support to National REDD+ Action –Global Programme Framework 2011-2015 (SNA), primarily through Output 2.2 (“National implementation of REDD+ readiness strengthened through National Programme support”). It will be led by UNDP via the recruitment of additional Regional Technical Advisors to be based in Nairobi. This will allow close coordination with the UNEP REDD+ team and national REDD+ teams in the Congo Basin region. | |

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| V. Monitoring and Evaluation |
| The UN-REDD Programme has proposed global-scale indicators for success in implementing its work ([UNREDD/PB10/2013/XII/2c](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=10468&Itemid=53)). Relevant indicators are:  (2.2a) Percentage of countries with a National Programme or with targeted support that have requested technical and policy backstopping support that actually receive it  (2.2b) Percentage of countries without a National Programme or targeted support receiving initial support.  (2.3a) Number of UN-REDD countries that have assessed their legal frameworks for forests and land for implementing REDD+ programmes and strategies.  (2.3b) Number of UN-REDD countries enacting legal reforms for implementing REDD+  (2.4a) Number of UN-REDD countries that have appropriate, well-defined financial structures (national REDD+ plans or other mechanisms) to manage REDD+ funding according to the priorities of the REDD+ strategy and to international standards  (2.4b) Number of countries that have defined Benefit Sharing Systems (including non-cash positive incentives) in accordance with UN-REDD criteria (equity, transparency, inclusive process, grievance mechanism).  Reporting will be led by the UNDP REDD+ Team, in conjunction with UNEP and FAO. |

**Annex I. Results Framework** (draft)

| **Outcomes** | **Outputs** | **Responsible agency** | **Indicative activities** | **Inputs** | **Estimated timeline** | | | | | | | | | **Indicative annual budget**  **(US$)** |
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| 2013 | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | |
| Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| **National REDD+ Coordination Capacities Strengthened** | National implementation frameworks and institutional set up | UNDP | * Provide methods, guidance and best practice to design national REDD+ strategies that can serve countries in a transition to Phase II and to mobilise REDD+ investments * Advise governments to ensure coherence between national REDD+ strategy and national policies & investments * Advise governments in how to guide and monitor REDD+ pilot projects to ensure consistency with national REDD+ strategic work * Support developing REDD+ compliant land use planning, land tenure, sectoral policies (agriculture energy, forestry) and population-oriented policies | Int'l expert (RTAs)  Advisory missions  Cross-country encounters |  |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 200,000 |
| Robust and nationally-adapted implementation frameworks for REDD+ and forest governance designed at country levels | UNDP | * Institutional Context Analysis and Participatory Governance Assessments conducted * Anti-corruption risk assessment completed, delivering reports with recommendations * Sensitizing governments on REDD+ and the related necessary reforms in natural resource management, governance and public sector reform etc. * Identifying existing or proposing new structures to assume the roles of certain national REDD+ fund organizational structures and other REDD+ work, building their capacity in fiduciary and program management and preparing a transition plan based on capacity development and institutional reform process * Advise governments on key policy reforms to catalyse REDD+ * Advice on how to "align" sectors to REDD+ purposes | Int'l experts  Advisory missions  Cross-country encounters |  |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 100,000 |
| Coordination with regional initiatives and monitoring of the implementation of the *Joint Declaration* | UNDP | * Follow up of the Joint Declaration of Intent on REDD+ in regional and global meetings * Support dialogue for new international finance for REDD+ in the region * Donor round tables at country level | - Int'l expert (RTAs)  - Travel  - Meetings | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 75,000 |
| **National and sectoral development processes integrate REDD+ actions** | Financial flow and public expenditure review of the sectors relevant to REDD+ | UNEP | * Conduct financial flow and public expenditure review in the forest and climate sectors * “REDD+ proofing” of the proposed development zones, and investment pipeline of major development partners such as the World Bank, EU, China | - Int'l experts  - Travel  - Meetings |  | X | X |  |  | X |  |  |  | 150,000 |
| Sectoral policies identified in REDD+ strategies implemented | UNDP | * In-country advisory services for REDD+ compliant land use planning, land tenure, agriculture, energy, forestry policies * Integration of REDD+ strategies into national development planning process * Capacity support for inter-sectoral coordination | UNDP Country Office and National consultants  Travel costs (UNDP/REDD+ advisory missions |  |  |  | X | X | X | X |  |  | 75,000 |
| **REDD+ Phase II becomes operational in selected countries in the region** | Investment plans for REDD+ prepared and investment cycles supported in selected countries | UNDP | * Identify strategic opportunities in investment plans through identifying and recruiting experts to support the process, providing oversight of activities and capacity building of domestic stakeholders * Investments properly assessed and designed to grasp the development priorities, the REDD+ conditions and the international finance opportunities | International expertise (RTAs)  Travel/Missions  International consultants | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 100,000 |
| Operationalisation support and best practice on REDD+ Registry and benefit distribution schemes | UNDP | * Analyse developing REDD+ project accreditation scheme * Policy and technical briefs on REDD+ registries, to disseminate best practice * South-South meetings to share best practice and learning | - National consultants, including website expertise  - Publications  - Meetings |  | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  | 100,000 |
| REL/RL, MRV, systems become operational | FAO | * Refine MRV (to enable to transition to Phase3), | - International Technical experts  - Travel  - Meetings |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 200,000 |
| SUBTOTAL | |  | | | | | | | | | | | 1,000,000 | |
| ANNUAL TOTAL | |  | | | | | | | | | | | 1,000,000 | |
| TOTAL BUDGET (2 years) | |  | | | | | | | | | | | 2,000,000 | |

1. The work areas are: Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV); Governance; Stakeholder Engagement; Multiple Benefits and Safeguards; Transparency and Accountability; and, Green Economy. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)