

PGA Process in Nigeria: Status, Relevance and Main Challenges

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Outline

- Background: Nigeria REDD+ Programme
- The PGA Process
 - Relevance
 - Status
 - Main challenges

Part 1

Background to Nigeria REDD+
Programme

Context of Nigeria REDD+ Programme

- Deforestation rate at 3.7% , one of the highest in Africa and in the world – need to react promptly.
- Cross River State (CRS) hosts over 50% of remaining tropical high forests in Nigeria.
- Initial, bold actions taken:
 - Ambitious nationwide reforestation programme with indigenous trees
 - Moratorium on timber extraction in Cross River State
 - Engagement in REDD+ since 2009
- Political awareness that curbing deforestation depends on community engagement and enhancing local livelihoods.



Programme architecture

Goal:

- To enable Nigeria to contribute to climate change mitigation through improved forest conservation and enhancing sustainable community livelihoods

Objectives:

- To build the REDD+ mechanism in Nigeria, using Cross River State as a demonstration model

Outcomes:

1. Improved institutional & technical capacity at the national level
2. Framework for REDD+ expansion across Nigeria prepared
3. Institutional and technical capacity for REDD+ in Cross River State strengthened
4. REDD+ readiness demonstrated in Cross River State

Programme profile



- Key **readiness components** addressed both at Federal level and in Cross River State.
- **Federal level:** focus on national structures and a strategy for engaging new states.
- **Cross River State:** intense REDD+ readiness, with grassroots engagement, to provide models & best practices for rest of Nigeria. A harmonised federal-state structuring for REDD+.
- Budget: **US\$ 4 million**
- Timeline: **2012-2014 (2 ½ years)**
- The Programme covers all REDD+ readiness components (*but requires co-financing*)
- Process for expansion the piloting of REDD+ to other states initiated – a national decision taken recently (*however additional finance will be required*)

Institutional arrangements (core structures)

Federal

- National Advisory Council on REDD+
- National Technical Committee on REDD+
- Federal Ministry for Environment
- Special Climate Change Unit (SCCU)
- Federal Department of Forestry
- REDD+ Secretariat
- Federal stakeholders REDD+ platform

Cross River State (CRS)

- CRS Climate Change Council (chaired by Governor)
- CRS Forestry Commission
- CRS REDD+ Unit
- CRS REDD+ Technical Committee
- CRS Stakeholders Forum on REDD+

Important Milestones

- 2008: Cross River State: policy decision to pursue REDD+
- 2009: Nigeria engages in REDD+ and joins UN-REDD Programme (**Nigeria also formally approaches WB FCPF but told to wait – lack of sufficient funds for FCPF to expand**).
- 2010: Nigeria lays the foundations for REDD+, including:
 - *Preliminary Assessment of the Context for REDD in Nigeria*; plus others.
 - Stakeholder engagement and dialogue, and community training.
 - REDD+ coordinating structures created (Federal & Cross River State)
 - UN-REDD scoping mission in November 2010
- October 2010 – March 2011: Nigerian stakeholders, with UN-REDD support, **prepare, consult & validate a national REDD+ readiness programme.**
- March 2011 : Presentation of draft Nigeria REDD+ programme at UN-REDD (PB-6, Viet Nam)
- **Nigeria REDD+ programme document revised and finalised:**

All comments received were addressed, or noted for the implementation e.g.

 - Decision to **expand REDD+ readiness activities to other states** adopted at National Council on Environment (September 2011);
 - **At least 7 states have expressed interest to engage in REDD+**
- August 2011: Review of social and environmental safeguards
- October 2011: UN-REDD Policy Board awards \$4 million to Nigeria's REDD+ programme
- March 2012: Nigeria REDD+ University

Part 2

Participatory Governance Assessment

Objectives for 2012

- Preparatory research is conducted to inform the design of the PGA methodology
- Governance Working Groups are established at federal and state (i.e. Cross River) levels, and a PGA Research Team is formed (at national level)
- A communication strategy is developed around governance issues related to REDD+, and to explain to the public how the PGA is meant to help track & mitigate these issues
- A PGA methodology is developed by the Research Team, in close consultation with stakeholders from federal and state levels
- Data collection instruments are field-tested in Cross River state and possibly one other state

Management structure

- **Governance Working Group at Federal level:** This Group (5 members) will be created as part of the existing multi-stakeholder National Technical REDD+ Committee, and will provide overall coordination and championship of the PGA process.
- **Governance Working Group at Cross River State level:** This Group (5 members) will be created to provide overall coordination and championship of the PGA process in CRS, with membership from the CRS Forestry Commission and from the existing CRS Stakeholders Forum.
- **Research Team:** Experts (5) from the following institutions could be approached: Building Nigeria Response to Climate Change (BNRCC), NISER, University of Calabar (Climate Change Working Group), University of IFE, Federal University of Agriculture, Nigerian Youth Climate Coalition, and National Board of Statistics
- **Coordination unit/ core team within UNDP**

Geographical scope

- The preparatory phase may involve up to 5 ‘potential REDD+ candidate’ states, in order to ensure broad-based participation in the design of the methodology, and to secure ownership of the PGA process beyond Cross River state (which is the lead REDD+ state in Nigeria for the moment.)
- The piloting of the assessment methodology will initially be carried out in Cross River state (the pioneer ‘demonstration model’ for REDD+) and perhaps in one other state to allow for a comparative analysis.

Main governance issues to be monitored

- Policy and legislation concerning REDD+ and democratic governance
- Institutional capacity of government agencies at federal, state and local levels
- Anti-corruption strategy for REDD+
- Opportunities for civil society and forest-dependent communities to participate in decision-making processes related to REDD+
- Benefit distribution system for REDD+

Key milestones for 2012

- Establish the two Governance Working Groups (at federal and CRS levels) and the Research Team
- Conduct preparatory research (REDD+ stakeholder analysis, identification of 'key governance issues & risks' for REDD+, 'lessons learned' from relevant governance/forestry assessments already conducted)
- Develop a PGA communication strategy, building on the insights gained through the preparatory research
- Convene a national training workshop on governance assessment methodologies relevant to REDD+ (to be attended by the Research Team, the 2 Governance Working Groups & stakeholders from other REDD+ candidate states)

Key milestones (2)

- The Research Team refines the draft methodology developed at the workshop
- Organize stakeholders' consultations at state level to seek feedback on the draft indicator set and proposed data collection process
- Field-test of data collection instruments in Cross River state and one other state, assessment of training needs of data collectors & training programme for data collectors
- *[Pilot of the PGA methodology in Cross River state and possibly one other state planned for early 2013]*

Relevance

- One slide from Marie's presentation presents the relevance in terms of tools,
- During the Nigeria REDD+ University held in March 2012, Janthomas Hemstra (Deputy Country Director of UNDP Nigeria) highlighted the relationship between democratic governance and environmental governance. He stressed that political leaders demonstrating improvement in environmental governance might be having greater credibility for leadership roles.

Status

- Full-scale PGA process yet to be undertaken
- So far:
 - Review of social and environmental safeguards linked to PGA
 - Principle 1 (compliance with democratic governance) is most relevant to PGA
 - Main suggestions are:
 - The need to link Principle 1 to human rights
 - the need to add a criterion that relates to building knowledge and awareness of rights as a prerequisite to exercising rights
 - In terms of participation, vulnerable and marginalised groups clarified to include women, youth and the physically disabled
 - Review comments and suggestions have been addressed in the programme document

Most relevant principles and criteria in the social and environmental safeguards include...

Principle 1 – Comply with standards of democratic governance

Criterion 1 – Ensure the integrity and transparency of fiduciary and fund management systems

-You could relate this to the training in Zambia

Criterion 2 – Develop and implement activities in a transparent, accountable, legitimate and responsive manner. **The proposed PSC will ensure the programme meets this criterion**

Criterion 3 – Ensure the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders in policy design and implementation, with special attention to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups

Principle 2 – Respect and protect stakeholder rights

Criterion 4 – Promote and enhance gender equality and women's empowerment

Criterion 5 – Seek free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and other forest dependent communities

Criterion 6 – Avoid involuntary resettlement as a result of REDD+

Most relevant principles and criteria in the social and environmental safeguards include...

Principle 3 – Promote and enhance sustainable livelihoods

Criterion 8 – Ensure equitable and transparent benefit distribution among relevant stakeholders

Principle 5 – Protect natural forest from degradation or conversion to other land uses, including plantation forest

- **Criterion 14 – Ensure that REDD+ activities do not cause the conversion of natural forest to other land uses, including plantation forest, and make reducing conversion due to other causes (e.g. agriculture, timber and fuelwood extraction, infrastructure development) a REDD+ priority**

Potential challenges

- Thinking ahead, we need to reflect on the following challenges and devise means of mitigating their effect in the PGA process:
 - The need to continue to build on existing capacity. The SS exchange is a great opportunity for addressing this challenge
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Thank You