

Independent Technical Review: Ivory Coast R-PP document

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

Reviewer: Aline Fabing

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General comments to R-PP Document of the Republic of Ivory Coast (maximum 200 words):

The Republic Ivory Coast has produced a high quality, comprehensive and ambitious Programme.
It demonstrates thorough consideration of how REDD+ could be implemented in the country context.

Assessing the draft R-PP against review criteria

(Please refer to the TORs and supporting documents)

1. Ownership of the Programme (maximum 150 words):

The Republic of Ivory Coast (RIC) R-PP presents clearly the government's ownership of the program, not only as a process to address deforestation but also as an opportunity, in synergy with the APV/FLEGT, to initiate strategic development changes, creating a national dialogue platform, introducing policy and institutional reforms to promote a transition toward green economy. It shows evidence of conflict sensitive, participative approaches and consultative process with coordination mechanisms build on consensus. The R-PP is coherent with national strategies, policies, National Development Plan 2012-2015, UNDAF 2013-2015 and other donors' assistance frameworks (AFD, USAID, EU). Government co-financing is mainly in kind; discussions with the government to allocate 5%-10% of donors' funding to REDD+ process are on going (c5). Indigenous Peoples, in RIC native populations are represented and participate in the consultative process; transparency and access to Information, Free and Informed Consent Prior to the approval are clearly mentioned (1c, 2c).

2. Level of consultation, participation and engagement (maximum 150 words):

RIC has undertaken an impressive effort to identify and engage relevant stakeholders at various stages during Programme preparation, which provided valuable feedback. Evidence of the extensive work on information, early dialogue activities at the national and subnational level is provided in the Annex. As mentioned above the R-PP shows evidence of a conflict-sensitive and strong participation approaches, consultative process.

A National Plan for Stakeholders engagement will be developed end of the first semester 2014. The R-PP specifically considers how to engage local stakeholders; it proposes a transparent process for stakeholder participation.

A National REDD Steering Committee has been established. A structured national FLEGT/REDD+ civil society platform is being created based on FLEGT existing well-established multi-stakeholder dialogue and civil society platform.

Efforts are concentrated on effective engagement of the private sector through the implementation of a private sector (forestry and agriculture) platform.

3. Programme effectiveness and cost efficiency (maximum 100 words):

There is structured Results Framework and a comprehensive budget breakdown. Specific support requested for capacity needs assessments and development of the National REDD Steering Committee and the national team at the different phases of the program as well as the multi-stakeholders platform capacities reinforcement should improve the ability of the REDD Programme to deliver efficiently against its agreed targets and indicators.

The Programme is likely to be effective and be cost-efficient. The broad use of existing institutional structures and mainstreaming efforts, the strong synergy with the APV/FLEGT process and other projects such as the GIZ/KfW are likely to reduce costs and enhance effectiveness.

4. Management of risks and likelihood of success (maximum 150 words):

Three main risks have been identified in the R-PP document: leakage risks (2b), corruption risks (2b), conflict risks (2.d).

To manage these risks, the RIC R-PP relies on the FCPF Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for readiness phase of REDD+ to avoid and manage environmental and social risks and to mitigate potential adverse impacts. UN-REDD Country Approach to Safeguards Tool (CAST) and Safeguard Information System (SIS) activities accompany the SESA. The R-PP mentions as well the use of UN-REDD Risk Assessment Tool, BeRT (Benefits and Risks Tool) completed with the Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+. Conflict risks are partly limited and mitigated by the conflict-sensitive approach of the consultative process although it is not clearly stated in the R-PP. Overall, the risk is perceived as manageable and mitigated through programme design. The programme has a good likelihood of success under the condition that the activities are implemented as planned.

5. Consistency with the UN-REDD Programme Strategy (maximum 150 words):

The Programme is found to be consistent with the UN-REDD Programme strategy.

6. Compliance with UN-REDD Programme Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidance (maximum 150 words):

The Programme is compliant with UN-REDD Programme Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidance.

Assessing the draft R-PP by component

(Please refer to the TORs and supporting documents)

1. Component 1: Organize and consult (maximum 300 words):

The R-PP's discussion of stakeholder participation demonstrates a commitment to developing methods for engaging a range of stakeholders in the development of REDD+ in RIC. Key stakeholders are identified, and the R-PP specifically considers the different capacities and needs of stakeholder groups. For example, the R-PP cites the need to develop materials that are appropriate for local consultation, noting that many native peoples only speak the local language. Development of appropriate capacity building and informational materials will prioritize use of visual images and verbal communications in order to bridge these communication barriers, communication will be detailed in the National Plan for Stakeholders engagement.

The R-PP elaborates a tentative timeline for awareness raising, focus group, and national-level phases of consultation. Concrete activities that should take place in each phase are listed, including reinforcing technical capacities for advocacy, information, education and communication; access to information about the REDD+ process and consultations and development of an independent civil society monitoring and feedback mechanism for the consultation process.

A grievance mechanism will also be developed (FCPF toolbox), but conflict resolution mechanism is lacking. Preliminary strategies to promote participatory decision-making based on consensus and synergies development between APV/FLEGT and REDD+ processes are among the strengths of the proposed Plan. A structured national FLEGT/REDD+ civil society platform is being created based on FLEGT existing well-established multi-stakeholder dialogue and civil society platform. Overall, this standard is met.

2. Component 2: Prepare the REDD-plus Strategy (maximum 300 words):

The R-PP situates the REDD+ strategy within the context of existing forest policy and specifies details on other sectorial policies and national plans that are relevant for REDD+. The R-PP provides a historical analysis of deforestation (deforestation rate of 3,5% from 1980-2008) and quantifies some of the direct drivers. In addition, it delivers a qualitative analysis of underlying drivers of deforestation and degradation at the national level with some insights into the dominant regional processes. Agriculture expansion has been highlighted among the direct drivers; and forest governance weakness among the indirect drivers. The R-PP identifies opportunities such as the implementation of a national system of Payment for Environmental Services (PES) to apply to agriculture and build on the synergy developed between the APV/FLEGT and REDD+ processes to address governance challenges by addressing forest loss/degradation, unregulated/undeveloped domestic market/illegalities, sustaining community/multi-actor participation in policy-making and resource access rights and benefit sharing, sustaining policy attention beyond negotiations/talks. Consideration of these drivers is identified as a part of the analysis of potential REDD+ strategies. The R-PP highlights the importance of the private sector engagement (forestry, agriculture) to increase the chances of success of the programme.

The plan also contains adequate detail on the methodology and schedule for preparing the social and environmental strategic assessment. Overall, this standard is met.

3. Component 3: Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level (maximum 200 words):

N/A

4. Component 4: Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards (maximum 300 words):

Standard 4a: Emissions and Removals: N/A

Standard 4b: Other Multiple Benefits, Impacts, and Governance:

In the specific context of environmental and social safeguards, the RIC R-PP defines effective risk management policy by the development of Safeguard Information Systems (SIS) at country-level to respond to UNFCCC 12/CP.17 Durban and 12/CP.19 Warsaw decisions and ensures that social and environmental risks are minimized and benefits enhanced. Indicators include governance, socio-economical context, environment, institutional arrangement, and capacity development.

Information on process (reaching a target) and impact (social and environmental impacts observed) will be collected. SIS will therefore be based on existing information, to then be further developed through the collection of specific information to the SIS. SIS aims at transparency and awareness of REDD+ safeguards, therefore the R-PP insists that the indicators it contains be easy to understand, be accessible to the widest possible audience.

5. Component 5: Schedule and Budget (maximum 300 words):

The RIC R-PP plans to allocate 36% of its budget for pilot projects. The RIC has managed to mobilize 51,8% of funding sources to support the implementation of the RPP. This is positive and should contribute to a sound readiness process. A 48,2% gap remains.

A dedicated effort to coordinate donors and projects is recommended during implementation to facilitate the process.

The RIC government support to the development of REDD+ in the country in 2014 is mainly in kind (office rental, the payment of wages of several members of the CN REDD or the purchase of equipment), discussions with the government to allocate between 5% and 10% (from all donors' funding) to REDD+ process are on going (c5).

6. Component 6: Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (maximum 300 words):

The RIC proposes to adopt the 34 evaluation criteria to monitor program performance of the Readiness process and R-PP activities.

Two independent evaluations are planned to ensure the objectivity of the process of monitoring and evaluation:

- At mid-period, to reinforce the potential demand for additional funds to FCPF
- At the end of the preparation process.

The specific framework for the UNREDD program are appropriate and manageable.

Suggestions for improving the technical design of the R-PP Document of Ivory Coast (maximum 400 words):

While the current version is very thorough, it contains in some sections excessive explanations and detail.

Component 1.

Could gain in developing a clear process with an allocated budget for creating a conflict resolution mechanism at local level

Could add a study on the identification of the role of women in Natural Resources Management and conflict resolution and mediation mechanisms at local level (i.e. UN system in Liberia – relevant experience in tenure conflict mediation and resolution)

Component 2.

On REDD+ APV/FLEGT synergy:

- To secure or ensure the synergy, there is a need for increased clarity on roles & objectives of FLEGT & REDD+ to:

- identify areas of coordination and strengthening of their objectives

- address weaknesses and gaps for better harmonisation and integration

- Common approach to communication

- Integrated approach in engaging with the private sector to achieve objective of both initiatives

- Increase understanding and synergistic roles of two initiatives

On PES:

Could gain from the analyse of experiences (strengths and weaknesses) from the national PES systems Costa Rica and Mexico