

Independent Technical Review: Côte D'Ivoire R-PP document

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

Reviewer: Muriel Saragoussi

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General comments to R-PP Document of Côte D'Ivoire

With this project, RIC aims organizing the necessary structures, planning processes and legal framework to face climate change impacts. The country is already suffering due to savannization and decreasing of rainfall, both direct results of the huge rates of deforestation in the last 50 years. The R-PP is well structured, follows state-of-art methodologies to assess participation, planning and monitoring processes. The systems that will be created are described as they can be in the best situation possible.

The major objective is to create a modern and effective REDD+ mechanism virtually from the scratch. UN-REDD+ is sought together with a pool of donors to support set up all the systems needed to achieve this goal.

The main treat to the project is its dependency on political will in an environment of a quite recent stability and facing strong pressure for “old fashion development” and an international demand for new lands, in a country that didn't yet secure land tenure.

The proposal takes risks in account, but donors – and UN-REDD+ among them – will need to support the ministries involved both with technically and financially. Social participation and organizational support, as well as legal modernization are key to the success of the proposal.

Assessing the draft R-PP against review criteria

1. Ownership of the Programme

1.a Coherence with national strategies¹, policies and development planning processes

The program is designed to improve the capacity of RCI to cope with climate change challenges. The ministries involved with environmental protection and natural resource management lead it, but it clearly aims to enhance inter-ministerial support. Although the country does not have yet the appropriate legal and structural framework, the R-PP includes the process for their creation. It forecasts for greater involvement of regions and management structure and governance at the regional level, and project to create a national fund with an appropriate governance structure.

The component met the standard

1.b Coherence with the UN Country Programme or other donor assistance framework approved by the Government

The number of donors supporting actions and activities in the R-PP are sufficient prove that the component met the standard.

1.c Government co-financing (cash or in-kind) or coherence with baseline funding

RCI government contributes with salaries, equipment and offices and might increase the budget allocation. Although it is really a small part of the total needed, they secure donation from other sources. The matrix of financial support is complex and involve FAO, FCPF, UE, AFD – C2D, and IRD (SODEFOR supports one activity that doesn't appear in the final budget, only in the text).

GRAND TOTAL	3 109	3 623	2 983	2 143	2 085	1 950	1 964	19 631,7	100,0%
****Apport Gouvernement RCI	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	245	1,2%
Apport FCPF	219	730	580	661	648	497	468	3 800	19,4%
Apport ONU-REDD	275	513	666	604	368	240	337	3 000	15,3%
Apport AFD / C2D	1 194	599	638	0	0	0	0	2 431	12,4%
Apport IRD	125	125	0	0	0	0	0	250	1,3%
Apport UE	36	106	91	41	121	21	21	437	2,2%
Gap	1 225	1 516	974	803	914	1 158	1 104	9 470	48,2%

OBS: on budget gaps¹.

2. Level of consultation, participation and engagement

R-PP was develop and financed to ensure participation of stakeholders. It seems that private sector participation was quite timid, but it is a goal to get them more involved. The focus of this proposal is the development of a national plan for stakeholder engagement – a detailed planning and funding is included to support strengthening a civil society platform acting in both FLEGT and REDD+ processes. Cycles of consultations provide opportunities to integrate stakeholder's contributions, and learning mechanisms are included. Complaint mechanisms are to be created via website, meetings, letters and other.

So far, more than 1700 persons participated in the R-PP preparation and there is a real effort to cover all significant stakeholders.

¹ Noteworthy gaps in the budget : Etude analytique de la situation foncière en Côte d'Ivoire et possibilité de sécurisation foncière des forêts du domaine permanent de l'Etat et du domaine rural pour la REDD+ et atelier de validation de l'étude (120 mil). Ateliers régionaux e nationaux de consultation pour la rédaction de la stratégie nationale REDD+ (84 mil). Plan type de Partage des revenus (160 mil) banque de données sur les initiatives de REDD (90mil) et réunion de validation du registre national (60 mil). Homologation des activités de REDD+ (80mil). Projection des émissions futures (185 mil). Validation du NR/NRE (15mil).

The component met the standard but a significant part of the consultation and participatory events expected in the next years has not funding ensured in the budget (see footnote 1) and future compliance must be monitored.

3. Programme effectiveness and cost efficiency

The R-PP describes in detail the budget necessary to carry on all the activities until 2017. The diversity of the funders provides a solid platform for implementation. There is a budget gap of 48% - nevertheless 37,9% represent REDD+ pilot projects and REDD community projects that can be presented to other donors / international financial institutions. Other gaps are in communication activities and in secure future social participation (seen footnote 1).

The component met the standard

4. Management of risks and likelihood of success

The Logical Framework presented provides enough detail and risk assessment for the planned activities. Political risks are the one that might jeopardize the project - the socio-politic context of Côte D'Ivoire is stable in most of the country but still political frictions among actors and frequent changes in ministerial staff can hinder the process. The political commitment of the government along with a broad and sustained participation by stakeholders in the REDD process increase the likelihood of success as well as the support to the Civil Society Platform, and research institutes and a broad range of donors involvement.

The component met the standard.

5. Consistency with the UN-REDD Programme Strategy

UN-REDD+ support will be for the components

- Information, communication and dialogue with stakeholders,
- Strategies, planning and pilot projects (see above on 3),
- Monitoring and Measurement, Reporting and Verification,

The proposal as a whole is in line with the 6 work areas of the UNREDD Programme Strategy. Most of procedures presented use UN framework and reference documents.

The component met the standard.

6. Compliance with UN-REDD Programme Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidance

The RCI government has followed the rules and procedures for presentation of the R-PP with a close coordination with and the technical support of UN Agencies.

The component met the standard.

Assessing the draft R-PP by component

1. Component 1: Organize and consult

Component 1 as a whole provides enough information to comply with the criteria.

Elements that deserve to be highlighted in the RPP:

- 2012 decree creating the following structures: REDD+ National Commission (with civil society organizations and private sector), a Permanent Executive Secretariat for REDD + (for the daily management of the process), a National REDD+ Committee (for the strategic direction and policy) and a Technical Interministerial Committee for REDD+ (for institutional coordination and multisectoral alignment).
- Prevision to create a REDD+ Fund
- Clear assessment on the changes needed in structure and legal frameworks
- Commitment with social participation, including funding for the Civil Society Platform
- Clarity on the synergies between FLEGT and REDD+ programmes
- Clarity on the need for political support and interministerial cooperation
- Prevision for regional bodies (regional committees) to root the process. Establishment of a formal framework for consultation, creation of local monitoring committees, integration of translators to local languages.
- Work with the media and community radios
- Prevision for the preparation of a National Plan for Stakeholders participation, including women and youth, traditional authorities and traditional chiefs, among others
- Good planning and perception of needs for capacity building in the government and civil society
- Definition of a permanent staff for the project – preserving history and memory of the processes and building of trust with partners.

The component met the standard.

2. Component 2: Prepare the REDD-plus Strategy

This is one of the expected results of the project.

The component describes the engines of deforestation (agriculture, wood for fuel, logging, bush fires and others less important), provides measures to be further analyzed and incorporates studies that are needed and the development of strategies to be included in the REDD+ Strategy. This is very good however some of the underlying drivers of deforestation though identified, such as land tenure, are not addressed in the solution as they could be – especially as there is no budget to the studies related to this particular topic.

Regarding the Environmental Assessment and Social Strategy (SESA) of policies, plans and programs, the R-PP includes a working plan describing actions, risks and legal framework. It is already being supported by the FCPF.

Côte d'Ivoire has few safeguards regarding the management of social and environmental impacts of its programs. The adoption of existing REDD + safeguards is recommended.

The proposal highlight 6 main elements that a national approach can develop and which will then be assessed by the safeguards information system - SIS:

- developing procedures and safeguards procedures for REDD+ (consultations, implementation of a safeguard framework, identification of safeguard measures, etc.).
- inventory of traditional knowledge and rights of local populations, and their capacity building (training and awareness);
- inventory policies, existing laws and regulations, and improve them if necessary;
- development and implementation of safeguards measures;

- design and development of the SIS (architecture, procedures, institutional arrangement, development of indicators, database, tools for collection, processing and dissemination);
- monitoring and evaluating performance and efficiency of the system;
- communicating results.

The component met the standard.

Recommendation to enforce the land tenure study.

3. Component 3: Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level

The country will use the national level to define their baseline emissions; however, to frame methodologically their work, they are establishing a series of pilot projects. Their baseline assessment will be on their historical emissions from 1990 to 2010.

To develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and a Forest Reference Level (NER / NR) will require:

- capacity building,
- inventory and implementation of existing structures with technical skills and data,
- further studies in areas where data does not exist.

Evaluation of estimates of emissions and sinks will be conducted based on historical emissions, following the IPCC methodology.

Approaches and data used to determine the NER / NR and implement the S & MRV will be consistent.

They will develop scenarios with and without REDD then use modeling to extrapolate results.

Risks: the National Development Plan provides massive investments in infrastructure and agriculture that can work against the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation.

A consulting firm or an independent certification body will conduct the audit of the project.

The component met the standard.

4. Component 4: Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards

Proposal of an integrated system that can meet other needs and goals – all systems that are described in the R-PP will interact. The planning tried to avoid duplication of efforts, harmonize the existing forest monitoring tools and their integration into the system, including the national satellite monitoring system of land, the monitoring and evaluation system for this R-PP, and the REDD+ safeguard system. The systems will have a public interface (web) that will increase transparency and accountability to the project.

RCI intend to identify processes, needs and possibilities of cooperation between institutions.

They already identified the need for equipment, software and regular images of forest cover (especially mangroves, where clouds often are a problem to monitor deforestation).

Training and capacity building are essential to the success of this component.

The component includes a database, a web interface and a portal, increasing transparency and providing support to benefits sharing and positive incentives.

Civil society will make data quality control. A third party will do an external audit.

This component will enable a national forest inventory and a national inventory of GHG emissions.

Recommendations: a centralized data input, as the intend to do, required an impressive amount of time and trained personal – Brazil has good experience in decentralized and cooperative data base (BCDAM – decentralized database for the Amazon). Definition of a thesaurus to simplified the inclusion in the database of data collected by different institutions.

The component met the standard.

5. Component 5: Schedule and Budget

Already presented in the above comments.

Budget gaps, especially the ones related to participatory processes and land tenure studies must be filled and we recommend to monitor these aspects.

The component met the standard.

6. Component 6: Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Component 6 as a whole provides enough information to comply with the criteria. The logical framework presented is detailed enough and provide information to asses for risks and ambition, as well as the specific UN agency is needed to support the work.

The integration of systems as presented in component 4 is a plus.

There are no indicator on land tenure, one of the key underlying trends of deforestation.

The component met the standard.