

The REDD process in DRC and UN-REDD Programme

Background and General Presentation

The REDD initiative (for "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries") is a new environmental finance mechanism to simultaneously address climate change mitigation and forest conservation, within the goal of sustainable development.

Developing the mechanism involves complex institutional, financial, technical and development efforts in synergy, at both global and national levels. A UN collaborative programme towards REDD (UN-REDD Programme) was launched in September 2008 by the UN Secretary-General. It comprises the three UN agencies: FAO, UNDP and UNEP.

The programme will be financed from a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) for UN-REDD, with funding from the Government of Norway, which may be complemented in the future. It is structured as follows:

- A Global component (US\$ 7 million) will provide international support functions, such as building consensus on technical issues, supporting the negotiation process and exchanging knowledge; and
- Nine (9) country programmes (some US\$ 3-4 million each), including the DRC.

UN-REDD preparatory phase in DR Congo

Objective

The DR Congo UN-REDD programme aims at putting in place the enabling conditions for a REDD strategy in the Country. Its core objectives are to:

- Prepare a Readiness Plan (R-Plan) through a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach;
- Inform and train stakeholders in order for them to actively participate in the REDD process; and
- Lay the technical foundations for REDD. The programme is accordingly structured in 3 components that respond to each of these objectives.

Participatory approach

The programme was elaborated through a qualitative dialogue with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, both national and international. Its current structure and contents were developed during a multi-stakeholder and participatory REDD mission in January 2009.

The UN-REDD proposal for DRC was endorsed by the Policy Board, held in Panama on 9 - 10 March 2009. The participatory and multi-stakeholder process in the country was commended in the UN-REDD board.

Within country, the programme will be lodged in the National REDD Office to which this programme will provide support in both financial and technical terms.

Phase-1 Programme: content and budget

The elaborated Programme corresponds to a phase-1 of UN-REDD, for duration of one year approximately, during which phase-2 (for years 2-3) will be formulated and duly submitted to the UN-REDD Policy Board. This phase-1 comprises three components: Planning and coordination, Capacity building, and Technical dimensions. The corresponding budget is estimated at about US\$ 1,883,200. (See distribution in the table below).

The MDTF will be implemented via a Pass-Through mechanism, which distributes technical and financial roles among the participating agencies (in this case: FAO, UNDP and UNEP).

	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	Total (US\$)
1. Planning and coordination	-	600,000	80,000	680,000
2. Capacity building	-	265,000	-	265,000
3. Technical dimensions	545,000	-	270,000	815,000
Indirect Costs (7%)	38,150	60,550	24,500	123,200
Total (US\$)	583,150	925,550	374,500	1,883,200

Additional funding for UNDP/DRC Environment and climate programme, if available, would serve to support on-the-ground and complementary activities for forest conservation and management, sustainable agriculture and energy efficiency, which are needed in the country and would nicely enhance the REDD process.