

National Programme Document Revision Table

Country: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

A) Comments relevant to the document (revision and elaboration phase) (*)

| Comment (s) | Source (**) | Addressed in (Page No. and brief description) (***) |
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| Stronger measures to improve law enforcement & address illegal cross-border trade (e.g. by joining Lusaka Agreement on Co-Operative Enforcement Operations directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora) | UN-REDD Policy Board | These aspects will be fully addressed through the Thematic Coordination Group system. A specific reference was added in the R-PP document, page 58 : "The efforts to improve the capacity to enforce the law are key for the success of the future REDD+ strategy. For instance, stronger measures to improve law enforcement and address illegal crossborder trade will have to be suitably designed and implemented. Joining the Lusaka Agreement on co-Operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora could be a good signal to this regard." |
| Request from the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' representatives from DRC and Africa that the MRV system in DRC's Readiness Plan be participatory, both in its design and functioning | UN-REDD Policy Board UN-REDD Independent Technical Review FCPF Participants Committee GTCR (civil society platform for climate-REDD affairs) - DRC & international civil society | <p>First, it is clearly stated on page 22, in the box "Participation of civil society to the national REDD process", that the civil society will play a role "in data monitoring and validation". The GTCR also expressed the will to participate to "monitor the biomass of permanent sample plots". On this last point, the organisation will be clarified in the near future in collaboration between Government and civil society as coordinated by GTCR, with the aim to simultaneously foster mobilisation and building on national and local resources, ensure data quality, develop a sustainable and financially efficient system and avoid conflicts of interest within the chain of data production and control.</p> <p>In addition, the component 4a must be considered in its context: What has been developed in the R-PP of DRC is a strategy for a national MRV system able to monitor and report GHGs emissions and removals at the national and sub-national levels. This system will allow DRC to monitor what will happen in its forest land and it will allow telling if the country is in compliance with the general REDD+ reporting requirements. However we should clarify that this is not the MRV system that DRC will use to implement its REDD+ policies and measures. This system will only provide some inputs/services/products to the MRV system that DRC will use to monitor the implementation of its specific policies and measures. It is in the monitoring of the implementation of the REDD+ policies and measures that the Civil Society should or may play a big role. At the moment, the planned MRV system focuses on being transparent so that Civil Society may have access to any data or may use the information to understand if the country is proceeding well or not.</p> <p>At last, various modifications have been made jointly by the GTCR, FAO, DIAF, DDD and NC-REDD to the text of the component 4a to clarify the role of civil society. These modifications are intended to answer the comments raised notably by the GTCR (letter from March 13th, 2010) and various international NGOs (joint statement of March 15th, 2010 from Global Witness, Greenpeace, FERN, Rainforest Foundation Norway and UK):</p> <p>p. 84: "As much as possible, work will be carried out in close relation with the local communities, civil society under the coordination of GTCR, different government agencies and institutions and the private sector. The local communities can offer support to the DIAF and DDD with regard to the</p> |

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| | | <p>verification of some data and activities in the field. Civil society under the coordination of GTCR will be involved in training, implementing the SLMS system and verifying certain data and activities in the field. The role of private sector, local communities and indigenous people in field measurements will be clarified between stakeholders (cf. Box page 22)."</p> <p>p. 93: "Measurement, associated with producing basic data, will be provided by the State, probably in cooperation with other partners. From the national to the local level, State agents and probable partners will be responsible for collecting information according to different methods (observations, surveys and polls, studies of official records, etc.). To each indicator corresponds a labelled form specifying the methods for gathering data (source, method, responsible, period, perimeter and exact data definition, etc.). Various REDD stakeholders might be mobilized for this process, particularly local communities, indigenous people and the private sector, which are experienced in managing the flow of local and national information to manage their projects or business. The modalities of such partnerships still remain to be discussed and clarified."</p> |
| <p>Clarification of the priority actions in the work plan that will be implemented with initially available funds, pending the mobilization of additional resources to fund the full costs of DRC's National Readiness Plan</p> | <p>UN-REDD Policy Board & FCPF Participants Committee</p> | <p>The Annex 5 has been added to the last version of the R-PP. It presents a chronogram of activities, detailing what will be carried out, when, and where the financial support will come from. Basically, UN-REDD and FCPF support has been channelled to priority activities that need to be implemented in the short term, as well as to the key coordination components to ensure coherence and continuity of the process all through the readiness period. Comparatively, the UN-REDD support was also targeted to the most urgent activities since it is expected to come faster than FCPF's, as far as it remained consistent with the comparative advantage of the UN agencies.</p> <p>The activities requesting co-financing at this stage are planned for 2011 or 2012, thus leaving time to raise and organise extra support. In this sense, the approved support from UN-REDD and FCPF secures the implementation of the readiness plan for the year 2010, most of the year 2011, and secures the overall coherence of the process up to December 2012.</p> <p>Regarding the extra financing required to complete the R-PP budget, a plan of action to raise resources has been set up and endorsed by the Minister of the Environment. It relies on two kinds of sources: bilateral and multilateral. The first step consists in organising a round table of donors already engaged in DRC. A plan of consultation and preparation has been designed and is being implemented. A formal roundtable of donors is scheduled for September 2010. Finally, the CBFF (supported by Norway and the UK) has given positive signal and shall be requested to complete the co-financing gap by the end of the year 2010.</p> |
| <p>Clarifications on the way various options contained in the study of REDD+ potential that were conducted with the support of the McKinsey firm will be address, and have requested to reject industrial logging as an option.</p> | <p>International & national civil society organisations</p> | <p>The R-PP does not predetermine what option/s for REDD+ will be adopted or rejected. It only intends to precise how every option will be assessed. The R-PP recalls the prospective study and the possible options as they were proposed by a study commissioned to the McKinsey firm, since it illustrates with relevance how a corpus of REDD+ programmes could be organised. But the R-PP is not the place to discuss each option. As a result, the R-PP does not comment the suggestions pushed forward by the mentioned McKinsey study, option by option, even though serious precautions must be taken when considering some of them. The text added in pages 51 and 52 of the R-PP intends to clarify these "rules of the game" and the way forward:</p> <p>"Indeed, the Government of DRC took the decision to assess every option on the table, through an inclusive, participatory and transparent process, in order</p> |

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| | | <p>to decide the options that will eventually be implemented as part of the national strategy, and the options that should be rejected. An opened workshop will allow to list and organize all the options suggested by various stakeholders. During fall 2010, Thematic Coordination Groups (TCG) will be constituted for each option, and gather all voluntary stakeholders with the facilitation from the NC-REDD. Each TCG will clarify its scope, its objectives and work plan in order to share its conclusions and support the design of the national REDD+ strategy by mid-2012. Options will only be confirmed (with their associated programme of implementation) or rejected by mid-2012 as a result of such a participatory process. Such a process is the fairest and most efficient way to ensure that each potential lever for REDD in DRC is adequately questioned, assessed, selected and designed. Some levers may raise no question, and then the process will simply help building the associated implementation strategy and programme. Some levers may raise concerns, and this participatory process will help assessing the pro's and con's, the overall potential and added-value of the option, so as to support the decision making process. For example, civil society and NGOs have been raising concerns against the expansion of industrial logging as part of the national REDD+ strategy. Their concern is supported by the report of the independent Inspection Panel's investigation of the World Bank (August 2007), suggesting for example that increased logging would be contradictory with the objectives of poverty reduction and sustainable rural development, the benefits from the industrial harvesting of trees are not going to the people living in and around the forest, logging affects not only those living today, but the welfare of future generations, a more balanced approach should be developed by emphasizing appropriate models of community forests as well as other actions to support community participation, land tenure and use rights in the forests etc. The TCG on industrial logging will lead the assessment and its conclusions will support the final decision by DRC."</p> <p>Regarding the specific case of industrial logging, it is worth recalling that most of the Congolese civil society and many international stakeholders consider openly that maintaining the moratorium on new logging concessions is very important for a successful REDD process, and a good indicator of the Government's commitment to forest protection and REDD. However, it is necessary that the international community acknowledge the valuable efforts of DRC, notably the respect of such a moratorium since 2002, and supports the delivery of such commitments.</p> |
| <p>Clarify how feedback from various stakeholder groups would be gathered and how they would feed into the REDD Strategy design process.</p> | <p>FCPF Participants Committee</p> | <p>Page 64: A new box presents the general coordination of the work to build the REDD+ strategy. As a summary, for every possible option identified (whether it relates to sector-based or enabling levers) a Thematic Coordination Group (TCG) will coordinate the work, check the ToR of relevant studies, exploit the lessons from pilot projects, mobilise required expertise and carry out consultations to build the case for the option. Each TCG will be facilitated by a member of the NC-REDD and bring together relevant experts and stakeholders from public administrations, NGOs and civil society, private sector and other partners. This organisation will allow to build the national strategy option by option, case by case, in a participative, inclusive and transparent manner. Indeed, TCGs will be set up in an open and transparent manner, during a workshop to be held in September 2010, gathering relevant Ministries and stakeholders of REDD national process. The list of all TCG and their associated leaders will be formally officialised through ministerial decree.</p> |
| <p>While the R-PP proposes the creation of many new institutions at national and provincial</p> | <p>FCPF Participants Committee</p> | <p>The final version of the R-PP clarifies the fact that new structures will not be created when it is not required. In page 66, the word "organ" was replaced by the word "function" to highlight the fact that most of the forthcoming tasks will be assumed by existing State services. It is nonetheless crucial to recognize that, in</p> |

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| levels, the R-PP should better articulate if and how the mandates of existing institutions could be adjusted to take on these new roles. | | many cases, existing institutions will need to be rehabilitated and reinforced to assume those new roles. The forthcoming studies on the implementation framework and revenue distribution will present concrete options for streamlining the process and minimising institutional growth while maximising effectiveness. A general and systematic review of the missions and strategies of Ministries, Directions and related institutions will be carried out during the year 2010, as reported in the Component 2b "National analysis of current sector-based programmes". |

B) Comments relevant to the inception and implementation phase (*)

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| Implementation period (2010-2012) is too short and ambitious | UN-REDD Policy Board | <p>REDD readiness is certainly a complex process, more so in the context of the DRC (vast country with weak governance). However, the timeline of the Readiness Process has been proposed in line with the expected birth of an international REDD mechanism, in the post-Kyoto regime, expected from 1st January 2013. Readiness will be an iterative process, but the goal is to have a basic readiness that allows the country to participate, even if partly or imperfectly, in such a mechanism. In addition, stakeholders are expecting too much from REDD so it would be unfair to propose a slow, dilated readiness process. In fact, in order to reach readiness, it is considered that an intense and wide effort is needed to overcome the many barriers ahead.</p> <p>As noted in page 97, the R-PP will undergo a thorough Mid-Term Review in late 2011 to revisit progress, timeline, activities and budget.</p> <p>The readiness plan is voluntarily ambitious even though DRC is aware of the various risks and constraints that could delay the process. The objective for 2012 is to have a functional REDD architecture, perhaps imperfect and still in progress, but that allows payments in a confident, innovative and effective system.</p> |
| Stronger implementation links with the UN agencies' Governance programmes in DRC | UN-REDD Policy Board | The national analysis of current sector-based programmes will cover the activities of UN agencies, such as notably governance programmes. This analysis will allow ensuring bridges are built between these programmes and the whole readiness process. For instance, representatives of governance programmes will be welcomed in the relevant Thematic Coordination Groups to maximise experience sharing and streamlining climate and REDD+ issues in their own agenda. |
| Ensuring that monitoring of non-carbon benefits and impacts is appropriately included during the implementation phase | UN-REDD Policy Board UN-REDD Independent Technical Review | The whole plan of readiness to assess and monitor socio-environmental co-benefits and impacts has been substantially strengthened since the R-PP version reviewed. The monitoring, reporting and verification of governance and economic issues will also be developed, and the components 2d and 4b provide appropriate details. DRC will take advantage of the dynamics coordinated by UN-REDD with Chatham House and most of the world expertise on governance issues (see London's workshop on 24-25 May 2010). Obviously, further contributions of stakeholders involved on these issues will be welcome and encouraged during the implementation phase of the R-PP. |
| Clarification of the means to address governance issues | UN-REDD Policy Board UN-REDD Secretariat | Several partners like NORAD, WRI and others have shown interest in accompanying the readiness process of DRC on the broad governance issues. Governance is key to ensure the robustness of the future national REDD+ strategy, and it will be addressed through various windows like the implementation framework (component 2c), the SESA (component 2d), the MRV system for other benefits and impacts (component 4b), or as key issues associated to various |

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| | | sector-based and enabling options. Therefore governance will be considered as a cross-cutting issue and organised as a thematic coordination group, facilitated by the NC-REDD and taking stock of the whole international expertise being coordinated by UN-REDD with partners like Chatham House, WRI, Global Witness, Transparency International, etc. Therefore this TCG will feed the work of the various other groups and options, encouraging training sessions or reviewing key documents and reports produced by the other TCGs. |
| Clarification on how traditional land rights will be addressed during the implementation of the National Readiness Plan | UN-REDD Policy Board | <p>The issue of land rights will first be covered by the analysis of the legal and institutional framework (component 2c). This first study will allow to building a review of the existing texts and practices, and feed a consultative process with all stakeholders, including representatives of traditional and customary societies, with strong implication from the relevant committees of the National Assembly and Government. Naturally, this study and this consultation process will build on existing initiatives, including the work by Forest Monitor in cooperation with the national civil society and the MECNT. As presented in the budget (p. 70), the consultative process around the finalisation and vote of the various texts designing and upgrading the institutional and legal framework for REDD will be long and supported by appropriate funding, so that a strong and confident dialogue can be fostered among stakeholders.</p> <p>Simultaneously, the question of traditional land rights will be addressed in various forums like Thematic Coordination Groups on community-based natural resources management, on land tenure securing, and others. This parallel process will allow to pouring the lessons and guidelines associated with operational and ground-based dialogue within the TCG into the more conceptual work to build the upgraded implementation framework and the land tenure harmonisation reforms associated to it.</p> |
| Coordination with initiatives in the Congo Basin including those of COMIFAC | UN-REDD Policy Board | <p>The DRC and COMIFAC work in dialogue to harmonise their agenda and activities on REDD. As international negotiations on REDD will move forward, coordination will grow stronger and thus the information and initiatives will circulate more smoothly between countries. Thus, case by case, COMIFAC countries will be able to better coordinate activities. MRV is a good example of the commitment of COMIFAC countries to work closely together. Cooperation on the satellite imagery reception base in Gabon is another example of how investment can be mutualised, the information flows can be organised and the opportunities for capacity building can be shared among countries. The regional analysis run by IIASA on drivers of deforestation is another example. The potential for harmonisation and convergence of programmes and practices is significant. The DRC Readiness Plan will contribute to reinforce cooperation within COMIFAC, on a case by case basis as described above, but also through a global endeavour to better share experiences, ideas and positions. To this regard, activities are planned and financed specifically (for example in component 2b as part of the support to diplomatic process) or through various regional and international workshops and meetings.</p> |

(*) As per the recommendation of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board comments from the Secretariat, independent technical review, and Policy Board will be presented in two categories a) comments to be resolved in the document (revision and elaboration phase); and b) comments relevant to the inception and implementation phase.

(**) Sources include: Independent technical review, UNREDD's Secretariat review, UNREDD Policy Board comment, as well as comments from the FCPF's Participants Committee and independent technical review since the REDD readiness plan of the DRC was submitted jointly to the UN-REDD and the FCPF.

(***) Unless indicated, this refers to the R-PP (English version).