



**United Nations Environment Programme
World Conservation Monitoring Centre**

MISSION REPORT

Distribution: UNEP UN-REDD team UNEP-WCMC Climate Change & Biodiversity Programme	Name of person(s) that undertook mission: Blaise Bodin & Ulf Narloch
	Period (including travel days): 22/8 – 30/8/2012
	Projects: 02650.05.E (UN-REDD), activity 6 (national collaborations), task 8 (DRC)
	Institution(s) or Meeting(s) and Venue(s): Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kinshasa, Coordination National REDD (CN-REDD): - working session on safeguard information systems (SIS); - stakeholder consultation meeting on spatial REDD+ planning with Marxan.
	Main Person(s) contacted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubin Rashidi, Bruno Hugel, Leslie Ouarzazi (all CN-REDD); • Thomas Sembres (UNEP), Danae Maniatis (FAO), Josep Gari (UNEP) (all UN-REDD); • Christophe Musampa (MECNT-DIAF); • Mike Ipanga (MECNT- Direction du Développement Durable, Biodiversity focal point); • Guy Mbayama (ICCN); • Héritier Mazu Kasongo (Expert en Environnement Minier), Luc Pongo Muamba (Ministere de Mines, Servcie d'Assistance et d'Encardrement du Small Scale Mining); • Joseph Amisis, Paulin Mawaya (Cadastre Minier); • Landing Mane (OSFAC); • Serge Omba, Benoit-Kisuki Mathe (Conservation International); • Andre Aquino, Etienne Benoist (World Bank) • John Flynn (USAID, CARPE), Son Nguyen (CARPE) • Terry Brncic (WRI)
File(s):	Objective(s): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) discuss national standards review and SIS → identify DRC needs and define a way forward for SIS work 2) present/discuss planned work on mapping/valuation of multiple benefits and testing land use planning software (Marxan) as a REDD+ decision-support tool → create understanding/ownership of multiple benefits work and set-up collaborations → identify targets/data for Marxan exercise and

I. SUMMARY

Overall it was clarified that the work on a REDD+ strategy in the Democratic DRC is delayed. According to a new schedule a framework strategy is to be developed by the end of 2012 and a national REDD+ fund will be operational in 2013. While the final strategy with detailed investments plans is to be completed over the period 2013-2016, REDD+ implementation (including demonstration projects and investments on the ground) has started and will intensify in 2013.

1. Safeguards information systems (SIS)

- On 24/8 and 25/8 a working session took place with participants from CN-REDD, the Comité Suivi of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) initiative, Conservation International, the World Bank and UN-REDD (FAO, UNDP, UNEP).
- It was clarified that work on SIS and in the context of REDD+ is relatively novel, so that little guidance/experience is available from other UN-REDD countries or other REDD+ initiatives. Therefore, the work on SIS in the DRC would be cutting-edge.
- Due to synergies with MRV, SIS would link to the current governance structure of **REDD+ monitoring in the DRC**. This includes three pillars: 1) The National REDD+ registry (all REDD+ projects need to be registered and contribute specific data), 2) System National de Suivi de Forests (national forest monitoring system to analyse deforestation rates and drivers) and 3) MOABI (collaborative mapping platform on deforestation).¹ How SIS connects institutionally to these three pillars needs to be further discussed. For example, the SIS could be integrated in the registry or the registry could just be a source of information for SIS.
- The work on the **preliminary national REDD+ standards** was started before Cancun so at this stage they do not fully reflect the Cancun safeguards. They were written mainly in light of requirements at project level. Currently macro-level standards are being developed following the World Bank's Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) framework. The Comité de Suivi de Risques et Co-Bénéfices Sociaux et Environnementaux is a multi-institutionnel group set in place by the Ministry to work on environmental and social safeguards in the DRC.
- Safeguards need to be applied at **different levels** in the DRC: 1. REDD+ projects, 2. wider regional/national initiatives (i. REDD+ initiatives, ii. aligned initiatives, iii. green initiatives), 3. National REDD+ strategy. It was agreed that safeguards are needed that are applicable across all levels of implementation from the national strategy all the way down to individual projects.
- A number of very different **REDD+ approaches** may be recognized in the REDD+ strategy for the DRC: 1. *sectoral*: i. forest conservation (protected area, ecotourism, etc), ii. community forest, iii. afforestation/reforestation, iv. agroforestry/silvopasture, v. agricultural intensification, vi. energy related projects; 2. *enabling conditions*: i. tenure security, ii. land planning, iii. technical innovations/research, iv. local governance, v. Microfinance. Each REDD+ approach could relate to different risks factors and thus be linked to different safeguards that would require a set of different indicators.
- The main output of this working session was the elaboration of an Environmental and Social Management Framework/ **Cadre de Gestion Environnementale et Sociale** (CGES). Each REDD+ approach would require a specific Environmental and Social Management Plan/ Plan de Gestion Environnemental et Social (PGES).
- Each **Plan de Gestion Environnemental et Social** would list relevant risk/benefits associated with the REDD+ approaches and different measures at a *management level*. At a *monitoring level*, the PGES would define relevant indicators that can be linked with the preliminary national REDD+ standards. The PGES specify a minimum set of indicators required to be included in environmental and social impact studies that are to be undertaken by project developers.
- It was agreed that the **number and the level of complexity of indicators** for each safeguard should be kept at a minimum level, so as to ensure the operationalization of the safeguards and to avoid overburdening of project developers.
- For **homologation (approval) of a project**, project developers would provide an initial assessment of how to comply with safeguards and outline how to monitor and report on indicators. It was discussed that depending on their capacities project developers could choose between different verifiers for one indicator. After approval project developers would need to provide relevant information as indicated.
- The **SIS** would be based on information from the PGES from each project complemented by macro-level assessments that monitor indirect impacts that cannot be evaluated at PGES level (e.g. leakage). As such the PGES within the CGES would form a starting point for providing information on compliance with national REDD+ standards and Cancun safeguards and for a SIS as required by the UNFCCC.

¹ MOABI can function as a verification system run parallel to the System National de Suivi de Forest or just as an early warning system indicating need for independent verification.

- **Next steps:** 1. The preliminary standards need to be further revised in order to: i. reflect the Cancun safeguards, ii. ensure their applicability at different levels and iii. take into account review/comments by UNEP-WCMC. 2. The PGES are to be developed and it is to be explored in how far the Benefits and Risk Tool (BeRT) can be used. 1. and 2. are led by Rubin Rashidi. UNEP-WCMC has offered to provide input as needed.

2. Decision support on spatial REDD+ planning with Marxan

- On 28/8 a **stakeholder consultation meeting on Marxan** was organised with a group of key experts from CN-REDD, Direction du Développement Durable (DDD), Direction des Inventaires et Aménagement Forestiers (DIAF), the Ministry of Mines, Observatoire Satellital Des Forest D'Afrique Centrale (OSFAC), the World Resource Institute (WRI) and the USAID Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) . The working session included a presentation of the Marxan tool and how it can be applied in a REDD+ context, the objectives of our work, as well as a discussion of how realistic targets can be set and technical issues can be resolved (e.g. definition of planning units and cost layer).
- **Marxan** is a conservation planning software that simulates the most-cost effective spatial solutions to attain number of conservation goals. It has been used in a few contexts including the identification of priority conservation areas in the DRC by WWF. It is a potentially powerful tool to provide decision-support for national REDD+ planning in context where there are a number of interwoven targets (e.g. emission reductions and biodiversity conservation), but has not been tested/applied so far for this.² UNEP-WCMC is planning to provide an illustrative example and guidance material on how Marxan can be used for national REDD+ planning. In order to provide realistic solutions, targets need to be defined that reflect the current REDD+ and land use policy context in the DRC as closely as possible.
- Overall, the meeting was most useful in that it stirred **communication and exchange** between participants from different institutions.
- It proved that the **initial review on biodiversity related laws, regulations and policies** undertaken by UNEP-WCMC is already quite comprehensive and serves as a good starting point for defining biodiversity related targets for the Marxan exercise. In several cases, the participants pointed the UNEP-WCMC to relevant details of the legislation that can be helpful to fine-tune the goal-setting.
- The **main challenges to overcome** are the lack of an articulated emission reductions goal from REDD+ and of spatially explicit costs data. The targets presented in the "Inventing REDD+" report from 2010 are only indicative and the framework REDD+ strategy may not contain quantified targets. The work on the collection of costs data and the assessment of REDD+ costs (to be undertaken by UNIQUE and ERAIFT) has been postponed till 2013.
- In **going ahead** UNEP-WCMC will seek to follow-up with relevant stakeholders so as to resolve remaining issues and to identify realistic targets for the Marxan exercise.
- In addition to that, UNEP-WCMC agreed to continue the previous **collaboration** with OSFAC and DIAF. A memorandum of understanding agreement defining the roles of each partner will be drafted to formalize this collaboration in the next few weeks. It is envisaged to provide capacity building on Marxan for GIS-experts from OSFAC and DIAF so as to ensure the uptake of the tool for REDD+ planning in the DRC. Such capacity building could include other relevant institutions such as the École Régionale post-universitaire d'Aménagement et de gestion Intégrés des Forêts et Territoires tropicaux (ÉRAIFT). Further guidance and input from the DDD will be sought in throughout this collaboration process.
- Currently, in the DRC there is a **national wide macro-zoning initiative** under-way. WRI highlighted that it would be of interest to integrate the output map from the Marxan exercise into the zoning work.

3. Other meetings


- Guy Mbayama from the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) could provide important information on biodiversity targets. He clarified certain objectives from the NBSAPs from 2002, as well as its status and timeline for revision, explained that the strategy for protected areas will be published within the next couple of weeks and pointed at relevant studies on great apes distribution (e.g. from the WCS workshop that took place 4 years ago). He offered to support our work with more advice.

² That said, here is a district level exercise undertaken in Kalimantan, Indonesia by the University of Queensland

- UNEP-WCMC had several meetings with experts from the Ministère de Mines and the Cadastre Minier (CAMI) understand the application process for receiving mining permits and the different permit classes. UNEP-WCMC also obtained the latest shapefiles of existing concessions (from June 2012). The Musée Royal d'Afrique Centrale a Tervuren (Belgium) manages geological data on the spatial distribution of minerals.
- John Flynn from USAID, CARPE, who is just about to retire, explained CARPE and the zoning programme in the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba Landscape. This programme was based on a Marxan exercise undertaken by the Africa Wildlife Foundation to assign macro zones and then reached out to the local level to design community forest management plans.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

Follow up action	Responsible	Time-frame (by)
Share SIS working session presentations and outcome document	BB	done
Share Marxan presentation and documents	BB	done
Write contribution to UN-REDD newsletter jointly with Thomas Sembres	UN	3/9/2012
Discuss with IIASA possible cost proxies to be used for the cost layers in the Marxan exercise.	UN	7/9/2012
Draft a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration with OSAFC and DIAF	UN	10/9/2012
Follow-up with Guy Mbayama on (i) Stratégie nationale pour la conservation de la biodiversité dans les aires protégées, (ii) gap analysis of the protected area network, (iii) inventory of gorilla and other great apes), (iv) Indicative map of Great Apes.	BB	14/9/2012
Finalize outcome document of Marxan consultative session	BB	14/9/2012
Plan next DRC mission as part of IIASA PAC project kick-off in the Congo Basin and MI modelling workshop (both planned for beginning of October)	UN + BB	21/9/2012
Check how data on mining concessions from Cadastre Minier can complement existing mapping work	CR	Sep 12
Follow-up with Charly Facheux (cfacheux@awfafrica.org) on their Marxan work as part of the macro-zoning exercise	CR+LG+BB	Sep 12
Follow-up with Rubin Rashidi on next steps for work on SIS and on linking the CGES with BeRT	BB	Sep 12
Discuss with Tony Lynn (CARPE) and Terry Brncic (WRI) potential of Marxan exercise to feed into National Macro Zoning exercise	UN	Sep/Oct 2012
E-mail follow-up with Vincent Kasalu (Directeur MECNT- Direction du Développement Durable) about UNEP-WCMC work	UN + BB	Tbd

Detailed report [] incl. [X] N/A.	Documents [] incl. [] list [] non	Date
Classification [X] restr. [] unrestr.	Signature(s) staff member(s) 	Signature(s) supervisor