



LESSONS LEARNT FROM GHANA'S EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING A FOREST REFERENCE LEVEL

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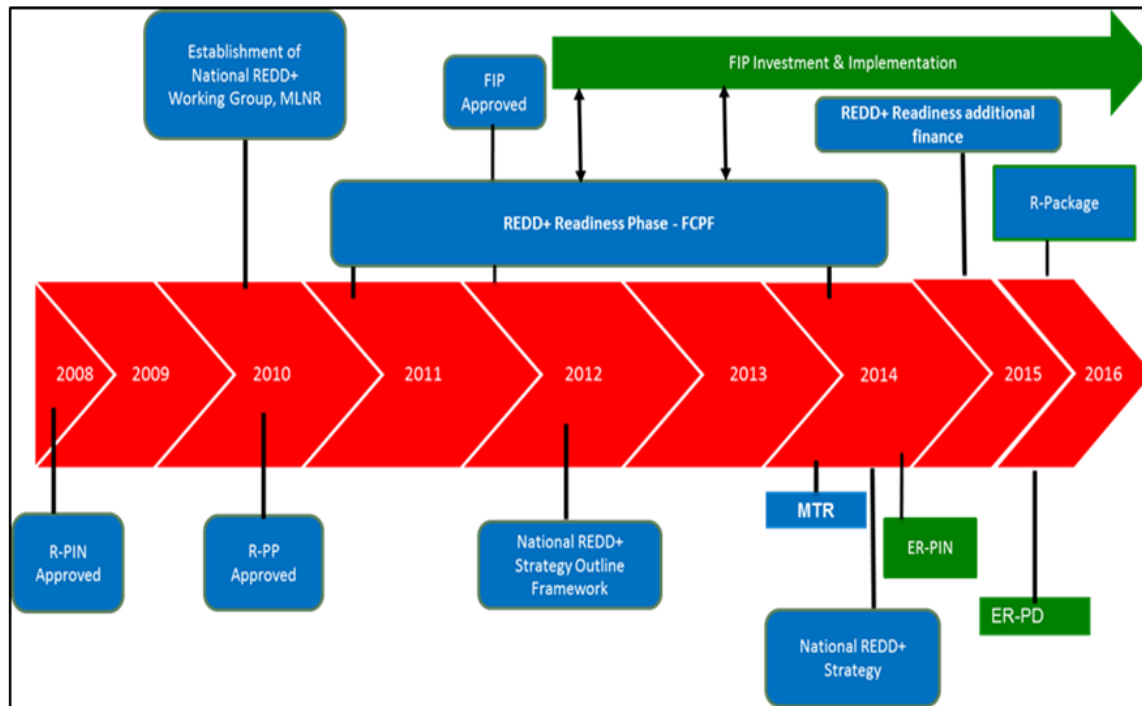
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GHANA'S PROGRESS IN REDD+

- **REDD+ activities commenced in 2008 when Ghana became an FCPF REDD+ Country, Ghana is currently at the stage where:**
 - ❖ readiness phase is well advanced,
 - ❖ targeted investments are being undertaken (under FIP),
 - ❖ an ambitious and pragmatic 20 year National REDD+ strategy has been formulated and
 - ❖ a performance-based Ghana Cocoa-Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) is being developed as a first major step for REDD+ implementation.

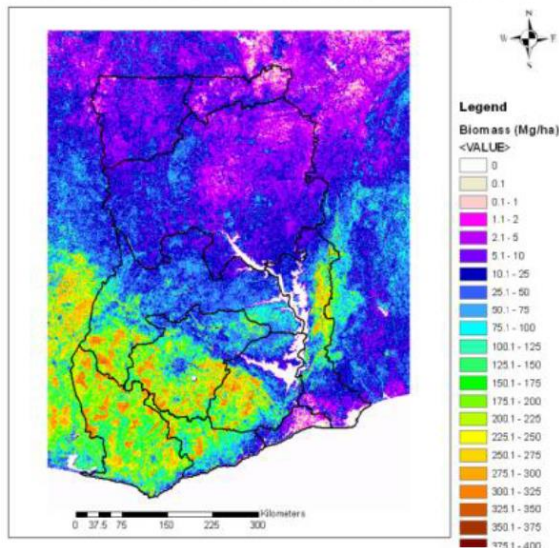


STATUS OF GHANA'S FRL

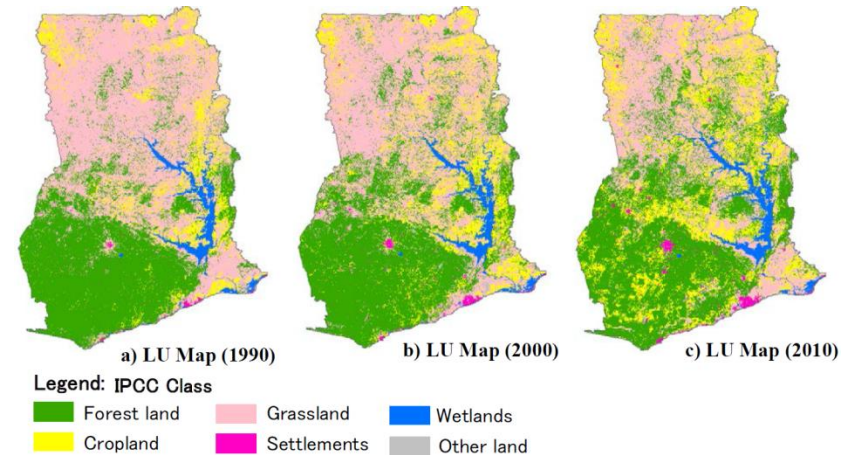
- Ghana seeks to finalise its national FRL by the end of this year for submission to the UNFCCC;
- Ghana has preliminary estimates of its emissions for the High Forest Zone which serves as the programme area of Ghana's Cocoa-Forest REDD+ programme (GCFRP). This sub-national FRL has been submitted to the Carbon Fund for review as part of the GCFRP programme design
- The national FRL effort is building on related-tasks undertaken since 2008

- **Development of a national biomass/carbon map in 2008/ 2009:**

Biomass Map of Ghana for 2008/2009 (Administrative Boundary)



- **Wall-to-wall assessment of land use change from 1990 to 2010. Undertaken as part of the Forest Preservation Programme from 2012 – 2013. Supported by the Japanese Government.**



STATUS OF GHANA'S FRL

In developing Ghana's FRL:

1. National Circumstances was well-articulated:
 - a. National Definition of Forest finalised through a multi-stakeholder process in 2012;
 - b. Protocols (12 SOPs) were developed to guide data collection for FRL development;
 - c. Reference Period (2000 – 2015) selected.

2. Key Category Analyses/ Analytical Work:

- a. Key Category Analyses undertaken for the selection of REDD+ Activities, pools, and gases to be covered;
- b. Combination of Remote Sensing/ Ground-based/ Proxy-based approaches were utilised to determine historical emissions from the selected REDD+ Activities;
- c. Annual Average Historical Approach used for future projections.

STATUS OF GHANA'S FRL

ACTIVITIES, POOLS AND GASES

REDD+ ACTIVITY	COMPONENTS	CARBON POOLS	GASES
Deforestation	Deforestation	Aboveground biomass, belowground biomass, deadwood, litter, non-tree vegetation, soil carbon stocks.	CO ₂ , CH ₄ and N ₂ O
Forest Degradation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legal logging 2. Illegal logging 3. Fire 4. Woodfuel extraction. 	Aboveground biomass, belowground biomass, deadwood, Harvested Wood Product.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CO₂ for illegal/ legal logging and woodfuel extraction; - CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O for fire
Carbon Enhancement Stocks	Reforestation in gazetted forest reserves in Ghana	Above- and Below-ground	CO ₂

PRELIMINARY FRL FOR GHANA'S HIGH FOREST ZONE (SUB-NATIONAL FRL)

Average annual historical emissions from deforestation over the Reference Period (tCO _{2-e} /yr)	Average annual historical emissions from forest degradation over the Reference Period (tCO _{2-e} /yr)				Average annual historical removals by sinks over the Reference Period (tCO _{2-e} /yr)	Reference level (tCO _{2-e} /yr)
	woodfuel collection)	legal timber harvest	illegal timber harvest	Fire		
27,285,442	899,499	3,419,024	13,407,000	44,447	538,993	44,516,419

LESSONS LEARNT

- ❖ Developing countries may rely on external expertise during the development of their FRL, consequently there is a need for national capacity strengthening to be incorporated in the process. This approach will ensure that there is in-country capacity to replicate the methodology during the MRV phase;
- ❖ Activities to be considered in the construction of a Forest Reference Level should be linked to the results of the Key Category Analyses undertaken and also take into cognisance the availability of 'usable' national data for estimating historical emissions;
- ❖ A step-wise approach is usually recommended for developing FRLs. Improvements can always be made with time. For example, Ghana's FRL development commenced from the sub-national level;
- ❖ There is a need for a firm decision on a national definition of forests through a robust multi-stakeholder process;
- ❖ National buy-in during the development of an FRL is critical. Countries need to take cognisance of the fact that FRL setting has both technical and political dimensions;



THANK YOU

