

COMIFAC Side Event

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REDD

Reducing Emissions from
Deforestation and Degradation



REDD Readiness in Cameroon

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Outline



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 - WB FCPF R-PIN
 - WB FCPF R-PP
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Background (1)



- Cameroon's forests represent 11% of the Congo basin forest (19,6 millions ha occupying 41,3% of the national territory)
- It comprises: humid dense evergreen forests, humid dense semi deciduous forests, gallery forests, swamp forests, plantation forests, mangroves.

Background (2)



- 6 million hectares of production forests are categorised as Forest Management Units (FMU) – Approximately 4 million hectares are under a forest management regime;
- 18% of the national territory is categorised as protected forest area;
- Forest sector contributes approximately 12% of GNP
Timber accounts for 25% of export
- The majority of population depend on the forest directly or indirectly for their livelihoods

Background (3)



- Deforestation and forest degradation remain pertinent threats;
- Estimates of gross annual deforestation range from 0.4 to 1%;
- Causes of deforestation are uncertain with small-holder agriculture and fuel wood extraction supposedly accounting for 90% of deforestation;
- These factors are secondary effects of timber harvesting that lead to forest degradation and loss of biodiversity;



Organisational Developments to Support REDD (1)



- Cameroon has been actively involved in the UNFCCC REDD deliberations since 2005
- SBSTA and COP submissions under the umbrella of COMIFAC
- Submission and Approval of the World Bank R-PIN
- Negotiations with the WB for the elaboration R-PP

Organisational Developments to Support REDD (2)



- Support the Initiation of Pilot Activities at Sub-national, National and Regional levels;
- Creation of a National Climate Change Observatory;
- Consultations/Discussions with key stakeholders on a potential institutional arrangement for REDD (commenced December 2008);
- REDD Steering Committee set up with a Ministerial decree from January 2009 within the scope of the REDD Cameroon Pilot Project.

Main Objectives of Project Steering Committee



- Discuss and make recommendations on strategic and policy issues to the REDD pilot project and related developments in the REDD process;
- Serve as a platform to raise awareness of key stakeholders on the REDD mechanism;
- Act as the point of contact for organisations that wish to establish dialogue with local stakeholders involved with the UNFCCC and REDD reporting;
- Support national and regional level workshops, meetings related to the further implementation of REDD;
- Facilitate the additional sourcing of funding for REDD activities;

Project Steering Committee is in the process of being transformed into a national REDD coordination committee comprising technical & policy organs

Important Issues for Cameroon



- REDD is more than just climate change mitigation – it is a mechanism for sustainable development;
- Consider degradation on the same level as deforestation in calculating emissions (adopted in COP13 Bali);
- Create a fund to support and reward present efforts by Congo Basin countries to maintain carbon stock;
- Include a development adjustment factor in the establishment of a reference baseline;
- A combination of national and sub-national approaches due to the weak institutional capacity of developing countries which lack financial resources or necessary technology to implement a national approach;
- A combination of market-based and fund-based approaches to ensure durability of actions and to forecast future financial fluxes.

Ongoing & Planned REDD Initiatives



- Projet Pilote REDD Cameroun – KfW-GAF;
- Projet régional de l'FAO - CBFF;
- Projet régional COMIFAC-BM-GEF;
- Projet de recherche EU FP7 – REDDAF;
- Projet de recherche EU FP7 – REDD Alert
- Pro-Poor REDD

Key Aspects for REDD Pilot Implementation



- To enable a better appropriation of the outcome/results of REDD pilots it is imperative that all REDD initiatives/projects be endorsed and implemented in collaboration with the government;
- Government should be consulted during the project elaboration phase;
- The collaboration at national level is ensured by the focal point pending the creation of a national REDD coordination committee;
- Regional programmes should reflect national specificities.

Key Components of a National REDD+ Strategy



Legal & Institutional Framework

- Setting up a national REDD coordination platform comprising related ministries (Environment, Forestry, Agriculture, Health, Planning, Energy, Transport, Mines, Industries, Livestock & Finances), private sector and civil society;
- Establishment of a financial architecture to acquire and redistribute funds;
- Consultations and awareness raising of critical stakeholders.
- Development of a national system to quantify GHG emissions (MRV);
- Design a Capacity Building Strategy on GHG emissions.

Key Components of a National REDD+ Strategy:



Technical

- Elaboration of reference scenario considering a development adjustment factor;
- Develop a full-fledged sub-national REDD project which will serve as a test-bed for a national approach;
- Analyse drivers of deforestation and degradation;
- Assess the opportunity cost for a national REDD implementation;
- Evaluate the economic potential of a national REDD scheme.

Key Components of a National REDD+ Strategy:



Policy

- Combat illegal exploitation;
- Clarify land tenure regimes;
- Strengthen sustainable forest management
 - Improve forest practices
 - Forest Certification
 - Reduced Impact Logging
- Alternative energy sources;
- Modernisation of agricultural practices;
- Assess different policy options to reduce deforestation and degradation.

Additional Benefits (beyond Carbon) of REDD



The adoption of a REDD strategy will have direct consequences on:

- Improved ecosystem knowledge & biodiversity protection;
- Improvement of air, soil, & water quality;
- Protection of the rights of vulnerable communities – forest dwellers (Pygmies);
- Enhance sustainable forest management practices;
- Combat erosion as well as desertification;
- Sustainable development of the country.

Conclusion



- REDD will be considered as a mechanism for sustainable development and will consider the pre-occupations of other related sectors: agriculture, livestock, urbanisation, mining etc;
- It is important to institutionalise the national REDD coordination committee, which will serve as a multi-sectorial platform to guide the policy process;
- The national coordination committee will be assisted by a technical organ;
- Civil society, forest dwellers and vulnerable population will be strongly involved in the national REDD strategy;