

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Concept/Policy Note for the UN-REDD Policy Board

Côte d'Ivoire is firmly committed to the REDD+ international mechanism, as promulgated in the Decree adopted by the President during the Council of Ministers of 24 October 2012. Côte d'Ivoire has also been a member of the UN-REDD international partnership since 2011 and was selected as a priority country in Africa for the new round of financing for national programmes by decision of the UN-REDD Policy Board in mid-2013. Within this framework, Côte d'Ivoire is submitting its draft Readiness Preparation Plan proposal to REDD+ (R-PP) and requests confirmation from UN-REDD of its support to the value of US\$3 million.

This request is merely the outcome of UN-REDD's involvement in Côte d'Ivoire since 2012. An initial policy advisory support mission in March 2012 enabled the country to align its institutional organisation with the REDD+ process, as promulgated by the aforementioned decree which gives details of its organisation. There then followed three capacity building and technical assistance projects through UN-REDD's Targeted Support mechanism. They focused on stakeholder engagement, technical advisory support for REDD+ planning and forest monitoring capacity building.

In addition, Côte d'Ivoire has participated in training and capacity building meetings held by UN-REDD in Africa, including the REDD+ Universities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo organised in 2010 and 2011 by UNDP, the REDD+ multiple benefits and socio-environmental safeguards workshop run by UNEP in Nairobi in 2013 and the workshops on forest monitoring and M & MRV systems run by FAO since 2011.

Côte d'Ivoire is also a member of the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). Since 2013, Côte d'Ivoire has also received support from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) through the Debt Relief and Development Contract (C2D) and the European Union REDD+ Facility (EU-REDD) for its national REDD+ process.

All of these institutional partnerships attest to the national political commitment to the REDD+ process and the international recognition of Côte d'Ivoire's commitment.

Summary of R-PP

Côte d'Ivoire's R-PP is organised around the joint UN-REDD and FCPF framework. It is the planning tool for the national REDD+ process for the 2014-2017 period. It thus

guarantees harmonious coordination of the various forms of technical and financial support from UN-REDD, the FCPF, AFD and EU-REDD.

The R-PP includes sections on support for national institutional arrangements and the operation of bodies managing REDD+ readiness, for which the decree of 24 October 2012 on REDD+ will be updated. The R-PP also makes provision for the implementation of a *National Stakeholder Engagement Plan*, to be supplemented at the beginning of 2014 with technical and financial support from UN-REDD which is already in progress. This plan will set out the methodology for engaging stakeholders during the REDD+ process, a work plan with the communication and consultation activities, a timetable and a budget.

The Joint UN-REDD and FCPF Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness will provide the methodological framework.

Furthermore, during its REDD+ process as mentioned in the R-PP, Côte d'Ivoire will begin a series of studies, participatory analyses and surveys in order to examine the main questions and issues relating to REDD+. This work will lay the foundations for the formulation of the National REDD+ Strategy. It will naturally include studies on factors behind deforestation and forest degradation (including direct and indirect causes and their respective weightings) and on reforestation and agro-forestry potential. Good practices in the management of natural resources which help to mitigate climate change (including in the forestry and agricultural sectors) will also be analysed, as will land issues, which will be analysed in depth. A study targeted at the generation and consumption of wood energy per agro-ecological zone will be conducted. In addition, a participatory analysis of REDD+ governance will be carried out with guidance from the UNDP, with UN-REDD's experience being incorporated. The National REDD+ Strategy, a mainstay of preparations for REDD+, will be developed on the basis of this analytical work, which will be supplemented by recurring consultations. Strategic options will be analysed from multiple angles, including the economic (opportunity and implementation costs), social and environmental dimensions and REDD+ potential, at the end of which arbitration will be necessary.

The R-PP also makes provision for intense work on the REDD+ implementation framework, which will specify precisely the measures and institutions necessary for the REDD+ investment phases and payments (those not limited to carbon aspects). In the particular case of Côte d'Ivoire, it is anticipated that a REDD+ register, a "National REDD+ Fund" financial mechanism, a consensual REDD+ benefit-sharing system and a complaint management mechanism will be created. A legal corpus for REDD+ will also be created, and will include a legal characterisation of carbon rights and clear rules on REDD+ benefit-sharing. Legal reforms will probably also be necessary, including the

enactment of a national REDD+ law which will be drafted and validated in a participatory manner. In addition, since implementation of the national REDD+ strategy may have beneficial or detrimental impacts on living conditions for populations and environmental amenities, a rigorous Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment will be conducted under the technical supervision of the FCPF. It will focus primarily on REDD+ strategic options and will lead to an Environmental and Social Management Framework. It will make it possible to mitigate possible adverse impacts and maximise the social and environmental co-benefits of REDD+. In addition, the development of a reference level for REDD+ is vital to assess the actual impacts of REDD+ activities. This reference level will take account of historical deforestation and degradation rates and also a prospective analysis based on historical greenhouse gas emissions, with regard being had to national circumstances. Models similar to CongoBIOM may be used. Finally, the R-PP makes provision for the creation of a national forest surveillance system, which will be built as a prerequisite for the forest carbon monitoring, measurement, reporting and verification system. FAO will provide technical advisory support for the construction of this system. All information gathered by the monitoring system will be brought together in a database and made available to stakeholders via the National Forest Monitoring System geo-portal. It will include a safeguards information system, including social and environmental risks and co-benefits, which will be developed on the basis of the Cancun Agreements. This system will be linked to or even integrated into the National Forest Monitoring System and will make it possible to monitor governance, guarantees and impacts of REDD+ implementation in the environmental and socio-economic domains.

This R-PP is the outcome of several months of planning, technical exchange, consultations and dialogue with FCPF and UN-REDD missions. Over 1,500 participants have taken part in the preliminary awareness-raising and consultation activities, representing various REDD+ stakeholders such as local communities, civil society, the private sector, government authorities, technical and financial partners, women's and young people's organisations, traditional authorities, local elected representatives, universities, the research community and the media.

The budget for the R-PP makes it possible to identify and estimate the financial support from Côte d'Ivoire's international partners such as UN-REDD, the FCPF, AFD and the EU-REDD Facility.

Côte d'Ivoire would like confirmation from the UN-REDD Policy Board as regards the level of the UN-REDD funding for the national UN-REDD process, estimated at US \$3 million, excluding indirect UN-REDD costs. Once this financial aspect has been confirmed, Côte d'Ivoire and UN-REDD will prepare, during Q1 2014, a joint national

programme document and a detailed budget to be submitted to and approved during the mid-2014 session of the Policy Board. At the same time, the request for funding submitted to the FCPF Participants Committee is expected to bring in US \$3.7 million. The funding from AFD has already been received and has been used to fund REDD+ readiness activities in 2013. The European Union via the EFI has shown great interest in Côte d'Ivoire's REDD+ process. Its support for the process, which currently stands at around US \$150,000, will be determined according to the results of the cost-benefit analysis and the mobilisation of agricultural and forestry actors among other things. The Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) has also pledged to support the implementation of component 4 by contributing US \$328,000.

Finally, discussions are currently ongoing between CNREDD and the Ministry of Economy and Finance over the allocation of a budget from the State for REDD+ readiness activities which could amount to between 5% and 10% of the budget formed from confirmed contributions from donors.

In essence, the anticipated support from UN-REDD, as identified during technical missions undertaken by UN-REDD officials in Africa and as outlined in the R-PP, is intended to focus on the following aspects:

- management of the national REDD+ process, including the provision of technical and strategic expertise and support for inter-sectoral dialogue [component 1A];
- stakeholder engagement, including support for the FLEGT/REDD+ joint platform as a multi-partner consultative and deliberative body, and the implementation of a *National Stakeholder Engagement Plan* (using the *Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness* prepared jointly by UN-REDD and the FCPF) [component 1C];
- preparing the National REDD+ Strategy, including assistance with underlying analyses (including with regard to deforestation factors, reforestation and agro-forestry potential, and governance in general) and facilitating arbitration around strategic options [components 2A & 2B];
- building the REDD+ implementation framework, including the REDD+ register, the REDD+ financial mechanism (or National REDD+ Fund) and complaint management mechanism – areas in which the UN-REDD Programme possesses expertise and practical models [component 2C];
- outlining the REDD+ Reference Level [component 3];
- establishing the forest monitoring system (linked to the M & MRV prerequisites of the UNFCCC) [component 4A]; and

- REDD+ multiple benefits analysis, feeding into the REDD+ National Strategy and the future REDD+ safeguards information system [component 4B].

At the beginning of 2014, a joint mission undertaken by international partners will be organised in Côte d'Ivoire in order to refine the R-PP further in a coordinated manner, and make progress with the aforementioned pledges of technical and financial support. The recommendations of the UN-REDD and FCPF steering committees, which are expected in December 2013, will be carefully considered with a view to finalisation of the R-PP and financial approval of these two platforms by mid-2014.

Côte d'Ivoire has been involved in REDD+ since 2010 and has embarked on a process of progressive and intensive internal organisation for the REDD+ process, stakeholder awareness-raising and technical and financial planning, as this R-PP demonstrates. The beginning of 2014 will see the finalisation and validation of this R-PP, as well as the securing of funds from UN-REDD, the FCPF and EU-REDD. From mid-2014 onwards, Côte d'Ivoire will enter the intensive REDD+ readiness phase, which it is due to complete by 2017.